MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

Since Iran and the United States have accepted the Algerian Government statement--as yet unpublished--and since the methods for the transfer of frozen assets have been "defined and presented" by Iran "in a completely practical and realistic way," there are "absolutely no reasons" for nonacceptance by the United States provided it is "really inclined to solve the matter" of the hostages, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi stated in an interview with PARS, reported by Tehran radio. He added that Iran sees "no obstacle" to the resolution of the hostage issue and that it is up to the United States to "bring about a definite outcome" on 16 January. "Any procrastination is condemned" by Iran, he averred.

In an earlier statement, carried by the radio, Nabavi said the American opportunity to take a "really practical step" of transferring Iran's frozen assets to the central bank of a third country extends only up to the close of business on 16 January. If the United States fails to take action to transfer the deposits by then, he said, "the circumstances would radically be changed" from the standpoint of the Iranian Government. Nabavi confirmed that Iran has just delivered its "final proposal" regarding the transfer of the currently frozen assets and said the United States has undertaken to deposit all the frozen Iranian assets in the central bank of a third country "before the release of the hostages." AFP, citing "well-informed sources" in Tehran, reported that the United States and Iran have agreed on financial terms for the hostages' release.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to bazaar traders, carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni praised the role of the bazaars as a "great support" for Islam but warned against unspecified individuals in the bazaars who are "deviants" and have engaged in "acts of sabotage." Khomeyni urged the bazaaris to make sure such individuals do not give them "a bad name" and said they should demand that those who spread their views on behalf of the bazaars should "put their names to their declarations." Military matters, Khomeyni went on, should be left to Iran's military and political leaders and should not be subject to criticism in the Majlis or in the bazaars. Khomeyni advised everyone "not to comment about the war we are afflicted with." "We will all be to blame," he said, if there is any "weakening" or "loss of heart" at the front.

Clergy Support for Army--An unattributed Tehran radio commentary praised the role of the armed forces in "winning and safeguarding" the Islamic revolution and criticized "pseudorevolutionaries," notably "Khalqis," who called for the dissolution of the armed forces after the revolution. "The imam and the aware clergy," the radio said, have "always supported" the armed forces, despite attempts by certain groups to "separate" them from the clergy "under the pretext of reorganizing the armed forces."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Palme Mission--President Saddam Husayn met with UN special envoy Olof Palme, Baghdad radio reported, and discussed ways of ending the Gulf war. Palme also had talks in Baghdad with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi. In a related development, Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz said that Iraq will suspend its territorial demands if Iran stops its propaganda attacks and "various campaigns against Iraq." The deputy prime minister, in an article for the Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, reviewed by QNA, said Iran has ignored the offer, choosing instead to continue the war. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq has only two objectives in a possible peace settlement: Iran's recognition of Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and an area around Ahvaz.

Arms for Iran--KUNA, citing the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, reported that Iran has asked the United States through "a leading Algerian figure" for an urgent arms deal, including sophisticated aircraft and spare parts. In a similar report, SUNA, citing AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, stated that Libya recently financed shipments of arms and military hardware to Iran from various European ports.

Military Situation--Both sides continued to report clashes in a large number of areas. An Iranian Armed Forces communique, carried by Tehran radio, claimed successes in the Mahshahr area, said Iranian helicopter gunships were in action on the Khuninshahr and Ahvaz fronts and reported that an Iraqi attack in the Dehloran region was repulsed by revolution guards. The communique also noted that two Iraqi battalions had been destroyed on the Gilan-e Gharb front. An Iraqi General Command communique, reported by INA, claimed Iraqi attacks in the Dezful and Abadan areas and noted other clashes elsewhere. Amman radio reported that Iraqi television carried film of a new battlefront on Iran's northwestern borders. The report follows earlier remarks by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that Iraq has opened a new front on the northern border area between the two countries.

Kurdish Situation

The clandestine Kurdish radios continue their reports on armed clashes and appeals for support. The anti-Iran Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio reported skirmishes between peshmergas of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Iranian revolution guardsmen around Marivan and Mahabad, which were acknowledged in a Tehran radio report of Iranian military action against "counterrevolutionaries" in the area. The radio also noted the initial publication of a newspaper sponsored by the KDP in Saqqez. For its part, the anti-Iraq Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan radio cited joint peshmerga-"Communist Party" operations against Iraqi positions while another anti-Iraq radio, the Voice of Iraqi Revolution, urged support for the "patriotic union of Kurdistan" in its efforts to regain oil-rich Kurdish lands seized by the Baghdad "facist regime."

YAR

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Local Government Minister Lt Col Muhammad Hamud Khamis, San'a' radio reported, as he was returning to the capital from Al-Hudaydah Province.

Turkey

Head of state Kenen Evren, in a speech reported by Ankara radio, revealed that a constituent assembly will be established between 30 August and 29 October. However, the ruling National Security Council will not remain "outside," he said, but will carry out the duties of the Senate and will not only approve laws drafted by the assembly but will have powers of final amendment. Evren warned Turkey's political parties not to have "high hopes," since "we will not allow any of the parties into the constituent assembly."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION MAY BE RENAMED

BK161010 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti has said that 33 countries have so far confirmed that they will attend the third Islamic summit. He said this after his meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, during which they reviewed the arrangements for the summit.

Meanwhile Arab League Secretary General Dr Chedli Klibi has said that the forthcoming Islamic summit is expected to approve decisive resolutions on the issues of Palestine and Jerusalem.

A Saudi officer said in At-Ta'if that the inaugural session of the Islamic summit will be telecast for all countries through satellite.

It has been proposed that the Islamic Conference Organization be renamed the Organization of Islamic Unity. There is also a proposal for changing the flag and emblem of the organization. A group of Islamic jurists have prepared a draft of these changes for presentation at the Islamic summit.

AL-QADHDHAFI TO HEAD DELEGATION TO ISLAMIC SUMMIT

LD151611 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Ayman Habib report: "Al-Qadhdhafi and 'Arafat To Head Libyan and Palestinian Delegations to the Summit"]

[Excerpt] Jidda--Special sources emphasized to 'UKAZ yesterday that his excellency Libyan chief of state Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will lead his country's delegation to the Islamic summit conference in holy Mecca.

The sources said that Libya has informed the Islamic Conference Organization Secretariat General of the names of the members of the Libyan delegation to the Islamic summit.

PALESTINIAN LEADER DISCUSSES JORDANIAN OPTION

AU151921 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 7 Jan 81 p 7

[Dragos Simovic report on BORBA's exclusive interview with Khalid al-Fahum, president of the Palestine National Council--in Damascus "some time ago"]

[Text] "Yugoslavia has given us much within the nonaligned movement and in the form of direct material and other assistance. In addition to that it has provided considerable assistance to us on the international scene, in view of its great reputation in the world. There is no doubt that President Tito's imagination and farsightedness, his influence in the world and his great sense of history as well as your great achievements in your domestic affairs have contributed a great deal to the good relations between Yugoslavia and the Palestinian people who are struggling to realize their rights. Today everyone has finally begun to understand that our rights to self-determination and to our independent state are legitimate and inalienable."

That was said in an interview with BORBA by Khalid al-Fahum, president of the Palestine National Council, who received our correspondent in the Syrian capital, Damascus, some time ago. He answered several questions on cooperation between Yugoslavia and the PLO, the prospects of the Palestinian people's struggle and the situation in the Middle East and the world in general.

Specific Role

"I wish to point out," Al-Fahum said, "that Yugoslavia has played a special and specific role in relation to the views of other countries. It is no accident that a PLO mission was opened in Yugoslavia before any other Eastern or Western country. That in fact shows that Yugoslavia and its peoples, its League of Communists and its leadership understood the significance and role of the struggle of our people before anyone else. That fact favored developing and improving our relations. For that reason I believe that our bilateral relations should be even more strengthened and further developed. That is certainly in the interest of the Arab world, the Palestinian people and international peace."

[Question] What are the prospects for the future Palestinian struggle in the light of the support that you are enjoying throughout the world and in the United Nations?

[Answer] The United Nations is certainly the true representative of world legitimacy. It is a body which should work to secure peace. For that reason our people place their hopes on it.

The United Nations has adopted several resolutions on the rights of our people to return to their homes, to self-determination and to establish their state. At the same time it has also adopted other resolutions denouncing Israel for its violation of international laws and suppression of the natural rights of the Palestinian people. For that reason we will continue our struggle with the assistance of the world organization to show the real nature of Israel and its arrogance as well as the ill intentions of Zionism not only in relation to our people but also in relation to world peace, to isolate it as much as possible.

We place great hope in the United Nations despite the fact that many of its resolutions have not been carried out. We will continue to cooperate with it because a real solution can only be found within the framework of international legitimacy at a conference sponsored by the United Nations in which all the parties concerned would participate. The Middle East problem is too acute as it is. Speaking about it, we cannot bypass the Palestinian problem which is the core of the Middle East crisis.

Contribution of Nonaligned Countries

[Question] The nonaligned countries have greatly helped and continue to help your struggle. In your opinion, what more should they do?

[Answer] The nonaligned countries help us politically and materially. These countries have given us their assistance and have helped within the framework of the United Nations and other international institutions to reveal the true nature of Israel and international imperialism in relation to the Palestinian and Arab peoples. They have elucidated Israel's expansionist plans toward our territories and have contributed to condemning Israel and its disregard of human rights within the United Nations and other international institutions and congresses.

On the other hand as to material aid the nonaligned countries have helped us according to their abilities. A certain number of our students are studying at universities in the individual nonaligned countries. We are receiving modest financial aid as well as medical aid and other materials.

We believe that the nonaligned world must preserve its solidarity and its unity to be able to contribute to preserving peace and detente and to a better life.

[Question] How do you view the world's crisis hotbeds and how, in your opinion, they are reflected in international relations?

[Answer] As I have said we Palestinians are mainly interested in peace and in realizing our legitimate rights. For that reason any crisis in detente and any tension in international relations negatively affect us and our cause. They weaken our international position and our struggle because in that event the world begins to concern itself with other problems.

For that reason we are strongly interested in peace and detente so as to ensure that the world devotes the necessary attention to the problem of our people and our cause. For example, the war between Iraq and Iran benefits neither of the parties involved nor the Palestinian cause. The continuation of that war leads to further bloodshed and the exhaustion of the Iraqis and the Iranians. A weakening of Iraq and Iran can in no way contribute to a positive solution of the Palestinian problem or to world peace.

Disregarding the PLO

[Question] Judging by certain sources, lately there has been some talk about a possibility of solving the Palestinian problem within the framework of Jordan. What is your view of that?

[Answer] All statements by President-elect Reagan and his associates have been hostile in relation to our people and the PLO. Reagan still refuses to recognize the PLO. He refuses to hold any talks with us. Refusing to recognize the PLO, Reagan has stated that he is inclined to a solution with Jordan's assistance. Afterward the Socialist International in Madrid also adopted a declaration stating that it favors the solution of the Palestinian problem in line with the Jordanian declaration. [as published] We also note the latest statement by As-Sadat making it known that he favors the Jordanian formulation. In addition to that Shim'on Peres, Israel's opposition leader, has also expressed the view that he favors a solution and cooperation with Jordan. All that shows that the Palestinian people and the PLO are disregarded. For now after the failure and collapse of the Camp David agreements, those same circles are striving to find another alternative because no Palestinian has agreed to accept the offered Camp David solution and to betray his people. However, even to this day Jordan has not consented to the so-called Jordanian alternative and has stood by its previous position that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As far as we are concerned this and other alternatives are nothing but an attempt to destroy the Palestinian cause. In this connection I want to stress that autonomy is a rejected project and that we insist on the withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied in 1967 and primarily from Jerusalem. We demand the formation of our own independent state and the treatment of the PLO as the only legitimate representative. Thus, any disregard for these principles will be considered by us and by all Arabs as well as by the progressive and democratic world as invalid and intolerable because it would be tantamount to perpetuating the occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories by imperialists and Zionists.

OMAN

OMAN, PRC SIGN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

LD141827 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jan 81 EA

[Excerpts] His Excellency Muhammad Abdullah al-Harithi, minister of electricity and water, this morning in his office received a Chinese technical delegation when an agreement was signed on technical cooperation between the two countries. His Excellency (Zhao Chaung), director of foreign relations at the Chinese Ministry of Water Conservancy, signed the agreement on behalf of the Chinese delegation. Engineer Abdulla 'Ali Daud signed on behalf of the Ministry of Electricity and Water. The Chinese delegation left the sultanate this afternoon.

The Chinese delegation arrived in the country on 31 December. It acquainted itself with the activities of the Ministry of Electricity and Water and inspected a number of projects in the country.

QATAR

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ZIAUL HAQ ARRIVES 15 JAN

JN151901 Doha QNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Doha, 15 Jan (QNA)--Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq arrived in Doha this evening on a 2-day official visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of countries in the area.

Present at Doha international airport to receive the Pakistani president were his highness the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense; and senior Qatari officials.

The Pakistani president was accorded an official reception after which he and the Qatari amir left for Ad-Dawhah palace.

The Pakistani president is accompanied by Foreign Minister Agha Shahi; retired Maj Gen Shahid Hamid, minister of culture, sports and tourism; Adm (Karameh Rahman Niazi), chief of staff of the naval forces; and senior Pakistani officials.

15 Jan Talks

JN151905 Doha QNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Doha, 15 Jan (QNA)--An official session of talks was held this evening between Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who is currently visiting Qatar.

The talks, held in Ad-Dawhah palace, were attended on the Qatari side by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and oil; Shaykh Hamad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalid 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, minister of public works and head of the honor escort that is accompanying the Pakistani president; and Qatari Ambassador to Pakistan Ahmad 'Ali al-Ansari.

On the Pakistani side the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Agha Shahi; retired Maj Gen Shahid Hamid, minister of culture, sports and tourims; and Gen (Jihan Zab Arbab), Pakistani ambassador in Doha.

QNA has learned that the talks focused on the current international situation, the situation in the area and the forthcoming Islamic summit conference.

The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them in all spheres in the interest of the two Muslim peoples and the two fraternal countries.

AL-'ARAB: REAGAN MAY TRY TO FRAGMENT ARAB UNITY

JN151017 Doha GNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Doha, 15 Jan (QNA)--The Qatari paper AL-'ARAB has expressed confidence that U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan's administration will not find one Palestinian to bargain with or plot against the Palestinian leadership, represented by the PLO.

In an editorial today the paper called on the new U.S. administration to become acquainted with the realities that led to the failure of the negotiations on self-rule talks for Palestinians. Prominent among these was the rejection of these negotiations by the Palestinians both inside and outside the occupied homeland, despite the murderous and intimidating methods employed and the continuous Zionist attacks.

The paper AL-'ARAB warns that the Reagan administration might resort to attempts to fragment the united Arab front, as it believes that such fragmentation of the front, which rejects the Camp David schemes, would mean a penetration of Arab steadfastness and the achievements of what the scheme's partners have failed to achieve for 18 months.

SAUDI ARABIA

OIL SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR 1981 SIGNED WITH TAIWAN

OW151115 Taipei CNA in English 1044 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Jidda, 15 Jan (CNA)--The Chinese and Saudi Governments have renewed their contract providing for PETROMIN, the kingdom's national oil company, to sell 50,000 barrels of crude oil a day in 1981 to the state-run China Petroleum Corp.

The direct sales contract has signed Wednesday by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, on the Saudi side, and Ambassador Hsueh Yu-chi on the Chinese side.

According to the contract PETROMIN will supply CPC with a total of 18,250,000 barrels of crude in 1981, including 7.3 million barrels of Arabian light, 3.65 million barrels of Arabian medium, and 7.3 million barrels of Arabian heavy.

Ambassador Hsueh was accompanied by Chu Chang-jen, CPC representative in the kingdom, and Mohammed Ali Ting, secretary of the Chinese Embassy, during the signing of the ceremony which took place at the headquarters of the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals in Riyadh.

PDRY

SYRIA'S KHADDAM CONVEYS MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN

JN141249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Text] Aden--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, dealing with the latest Arab and international developments and with the bolstering of relations between the two fraternal states.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam last night.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

LD151536 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 81 EA

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister, left Aden this morning for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the head of our country's delegation to the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization which opens there 17 January.

Shortly before leaving Aden international airport, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad made a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY in which he said: Our participation in the conference of foreign ministers of states of the Islamic Conference Organization stems from our hopes for the success of the Islamic summit conference, scheduled for 25 January, for which our meeting will prepare. He said: We look forward to the success of the conference of the foreign ministers in placing before the presidents and kings an integrated agenda, by means of which the conference will emerge with effective resolutions and measures aimed at reinforcing the struggle of the Arab and Islamic nation to support the just causes of our peoples who are oppressed by imperialism and Zionism.

With regard to the principal issues which the conference will examine, the brother foreign minister stressed Democratic Yemen's hope that the conference would discuss basic issues and not drift into secondary issues which would divert the conference from its real and historic tasks. These include action for reinforcing the struggle of the Arab and Islamic peoples for recovering holy Jerusalem and liberating it from the corrupt claws of Zionism, and efforts for the liberation of the remaining occupied Arab territories, restoring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and mobilizing all potentials to confront the Zionist and imperialist enemy and the parties to Camp David which lie in wait for our peoples. We hope the conference will emerge with a means of stopping the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran and establishing peace and dialogue by peaceful means to solve all their problems, he said.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES YEMENI UNITY TALKS

LD160823 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Jan 81 pp 1, 15

[Report on an interview given to Mustafa Abu Libdah by PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad--date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad has expressed the conviction of the leaderships in the two sectors of Yemen that matters should not be left to exacerbate and that views are exchanged to resolve any problems that might arise as a result of a complicated situation or by virtue of conspiracies by circles hostile to the Yemeni people's aspirations.

The PDRY foreign minister, who concluded a brief visit to Kuwait yesterday during which he conveyed a message to his highness the amir from his brother President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, was answering a question by AS-SIYASAH about the increasing fears that the situation between the two sectors of Yemen could deteriorate in the wake of the military incidents involving the national democratic front in the northern sector.

Asked what the southern sector is doing to contain the schemes designed to foment a crisis between the two sectors, the foreign minister said: We have made and continue to make efforts to bring about the success of the process of the peaceful national democratic dialogue between the authorities and the national democratic front as this would lead to pooling the capabilities of the Yemeni people for their own welfare, stability, progress and sovereignty and so that a united Yemen can consequently contribute effectively to supporting just Arab causes and struggling peoples.

Regarding relations between the two sectors, Salim Salih Muhammad added: We always seek and work to improve and develop relations between the two sectors of the Yemeni homeland so as to serve the interests of our Yemeni people and their stability and progress. We also exert every effort to deepen fraternal rapprochement and accomplish tangible steps on all levels to achieve Yemeni unity, which is our people's great aspiration. We also work to eliminate all internal and external obstacles that impede the attainment of our people's aims.

I would like to point out in this respect that the leaderships in the two sectors and all the honest national forces are fully aware of what the imperialist circles and the enemies of Yemeni unity are doing. They are trying to obstruct these steps and to frustrate any tangible progress toward unity. They are also seeking to revive tension between the two sectors and to halt the democratic dialogue with the national forces. They want to set the state of affairs back to what it was years ago in order to achieve their own objectives which totally conflict with our people's interests, progress and sovereignty.

We and the brothers in the northern sector have made good progress in working and coordinating together and in frustrating the chances of the enemies so that we may be able to pave the way and create a suitable atmosphere for the realization of our people's great aspiration--unity.

The PDRY foreign minister emphasized that his government constantly seeks to establish the best normal relations with the brothers in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom on the basis of mutual respect for national independence, sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and observance of good-neighbor relations.

In reply to a question on any new development in the PDRY's relations with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and also on the opening of an embassy in the UAE, Salim Salih Muhammad said: You are aware that Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of our Yemeni Socialist Party, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and prime minister, paid an official and fraternal visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom last year. The aim of his visit to the kingdom and also the Gulf states in general was to strengthen these principles, to maintain permanent peace and stability in the area and to keep the area safe from the dangers of direct or indirect imperialist-Zionist influence which brings tensions, intrigues and regional wars. Our stand is still the same and we are eager on every occasion to translate this stand into deeds. As for our relations with the brothers in the UAE, they are very good and contacts between us are continuing in order to arrange not only for opening an embassy there but also for expanding all aspects of cooperation between us.

The PDRY foreign minister dismissed the reports which predicted that the Steadfastness [and Confrontation] Front states will boycott the Islamic summit conference as falling within the framework of obvious intrigues by quarters which probably do not wish the conference to succeed in its efforts to confront the imperialist-Zionist enemy and which seek to create very secondary issues to distract us from the principal issue (foremost, the Zionist enemy).

Regarding his recent tour of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Syria, the PDRY foreign minister said that the visit was within the framework of exchanging views on the new developments in the Arab and international situation and also for joint coordination, especially in the present circumstances in which the Camp David parties are actively trying to bring our nation to its knees and to abort its legitimate and just aspirations.

On his assessment of the Gulf situation in general in the light of the [Iraqi-Iranian] war and the insinuations by America that it needs to increase its military presence there under the pretext of confronting the Soviet designs, Salim Salih Muhammad said: I must first point out that the PDRY has called on Iraq and Iran to stop the bloodshed and to resort to peaceful means and dialogue to resolve their problems and to frustrate the chances of the peoples' enemies who are lying in wait for them and to dedicate and mobilize all their capabilities to confronting the enemy--Zionism and imperialism.

We can see that imperialism, particularly American imperialism, is behind fanning the war and the conflict in the area. This is one of the characteristics of the new American administration's stand which is based on promoting war atmospheres. I point out in this respect that we are extremely perturbed by the mounting dangers of the American policy which seeks to reinforce its military presence under the false pretext (of Soviet designs, as I have said), while the real aim and the danger which is the source of anxiety and instability lies in the deployment of the American forces and bases in the Indian Ocean, Egypt, Oman, and Somalia and the increasing American support for the Zionist entity. PDRY's attitude toward this situation is clear. It has often warned of these dangers and emphasized the importance of joint action among the area's states in order to make the area an area of permanent peace and stability. It also called for noninterference in the area's internal affairs and for respecting the sovereignty and independence of area's states and peoples. It also called for not introducing nuclear or other weapons to the area and for keeping the specter of imperialist intervention and looting of resources away from it.

YAR

SALIH TO LEAD DELEGATION TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

JN151857 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Information and Culture Minister Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi has stated that brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, will lead the YAR's delegation to the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in holy Mecca on 25 January.

In a statement to SPA broadcast over Riyadh radio today, the minister expressed the YAR's interest in the conference, which comes amid important historical circumstances through which the Arab and Islamic nations are passing. He said that the YAR hopes that the conference will achieve tangible successes in terms of solving many existing problems in the Islamic world. The conference, the minister added, is bound to enhance Islamic solidarity.

In conclusion the minister of information and culture praised the role being played by fraternal Saudi Arabia in rendering the Mecca conference a success.

AMBASSADORS' CONFERENCE ENDS; STATEMENT ADOPTED

JN151555 [Editorial Report] San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic at 1240 GMT on 15 January 1981 carries a 40-minute recorded broadcast of the 15 January YAR ambassadors conference final session held in the conference hall of the Central Bank in San'a'. The session is attended by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The session begins with a speech delivered by Foreign Minister 'Ali Lufti ath-Thawr. He thanks the president for attending the session and introduces Muhsin Ahmad al-'Ayni, the YAR's permanent representative at the United Nations, who reads the final statement of the first conference of YAR ambassadors, which was held from 12 to 15 January.

He says the president held a closed session with the YAR ambassadors to explain to them the steps which had been achieved on the path of "hoped-for Yemeni unity and future expectations." He says the conference discussed issues related to YAR foreign policy, international and Arab relations and the results of national work and development achievements. He says the conference adopted a number of recommendations.

In the political and informational field the conference recommends that the political leadership "protect the YAR's independence and national sovereignty and work to achieve Yemeni unity." He adds that "the conference praised the steps achieved on the path of reestablishing the unity of the Yemeni homeland. It stresses the need for the committees to hasten the achievement of the unity." The conference also stresses the need for doing away with Arab differences and recommends supporting the Palestinian people until they achieve their national rights. It also stresses the YAR's rejection of the Camp David agreements. It emphasizes that the YAR's supreme national interest calls for "adhering to the policy of positive neutrality and nonalignment and rejecting the policy of axes and military pacts and adopting this as one of the YAR's basic and strategic principles for its foreign policy." The conference recommends confronting Zionism and racial discrimination and calls for open relations with the different regimes on the bases of mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs. It stresses the importance of "considering the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean as a secure and peaceful zone free of a military presence and of foreign military bases."

The recommendations also touch on economic affairs and international cooperation in this field, the conferees showing satisfaction with the developed economic relations with other Arab countries. They also express satisfaction with their economic relations with friendly countries. They call for economic integration between the two parts of Yemen and stipulate that Arab and foreign investments are welcome.

Other recommendations deal with cultural relations with Arab and foreign countries and call for strengthening them. The conferees also discuss the affairs of diplomatic missions, scholarships and expatriates.

The final session ends with a speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who thanks the participants and those who prepared for the conference. He wishes the YAR ambassadors success and calls on them to take care of Yemeni expatriates. He says that "our declared policy has always been that of positive neutrality and nonalignment." He calls on the YAR ambassadors to adhere to this line.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER ASSASSINATED 15 JAN

JN152040 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: This afternoon evil and treacherous hands shot Local Government Minister Lt Col Muhammad Hamud Khamis when he was returning to San'a' from Al-Hudaydah Province after performing his national role in chairing the conference of the deputy governors. The evil incident led to the martyrdom of Lt Col Muhammad Hamud Khamis.

While denouncing this criminally unfair act, we assert to all our noble Yemeni people that these agent criminal hands will not escape justice and [word indistinct] and will receive the deterrent punishment for its evil act. The interior minister, who rushed to the scene of the incident, said that one of the killers was killed and another was arrested.

A 3-day period of official mourning has been declared. Prayers on the pure soul of the martyr will be held in all the republic's mosques. President leader Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has asked the prime minister and a number of ministers to convey his condolences to the martyr's family. May God Almighty protect the martyr with His grace and make paradise his abode and bestow patience and comfort upon his family. From God we come and to Him we return.

GHAZALAH COMMENTS ON SOVIET DANGER, NATO, U.S.

NC160740 Cairo MENA in English 1815 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, Jan 15 (MENA)--Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said that he expects the Egyptian-American relations under the new U.S. administration of President Ronald Reagan to be even better than they are now, particularly in the military fields.

The chief of staff said that the military facilities which Egypt agreed to offer to the United States are mainly intended, as repeatedly announced by President Anwar as-Sadat, for contributing towards the defence of the Arabs against any foreign threats. "We in Egypt are capable of defending ourselves, but the real danger lies within the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf as a result of the Soviet Union's ambitions in this vital area of the world," Lt General Abu Ghazalah today told the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA).

In an exclusive interview with the MENA military reporter, Lt General Abu Ghazalah said that the Egyptian military strategy is aimed at defending peace in the area and not at escalating the military operations. "Despite the current peace between Egypt and Israel, there are still many threats around Egypt that are supported by the Soviet strategic objectives," he added.

The Soviet Union aims at suffocating the Western world and reaching the Arab oil-producing region, Lt General Abu Ghazalah said, adding that the extensive Soviet presence in some countries of the area surrounding Egypt and the behaviour of these countries and their hostile attudes make it incumbent upon Egypt to be militarily strong in order to be able to avert any danger.

Lt General Abu Ghazalah stressed the Egyptian Armed Forces' readiness to defend any state in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, which may be exposed to outside aggression if such a country requested Egypt's help. He said that his stance emanates out of Egypt's Arab and Islamic responsibilities which were repeatedly stressed by President as-Sadat.

The chief of staff referred in this respect to the military aid being extended by Egypt to each of Somalia and Afghanistan, adding that in helping Somalia and Afghanistan to deter the Soviet danger, Egypt is consolidating its first defence line.

Lt General Abu Ghazalah said that the armed forces are exerting strenuous efforts for consolidating their military potentials through the diversification of their armaments in accordance with a plan which depends on the United States, France, Britain and many other states. He pointed out that the armaments which Egypt contracted for purchasing from the United States will be flowing into Egypt as of the end of this month.

The chief of staff said that the F-16 planes will be arriving into Egypt in the first quarter of this year pending the completion of training of Egyptian engineers, technicians and pilots.

Dealing with joint exercises between Egypt and the United States, Lt General Abu Ghazalah said that studies are currently being made to determine the costs of sending Egyptian combat troops to the United States for carrying out joint exercises with the American troops. He added that the United States welcomes the sending of such troops.

The chief of staff said that the Soviet arms stored in Libya are far greater than Libya's potentials and capabilities and they are intended as a stockpile for the Soviet's for emergency operations in the area.

Lt General Abu Ghazalah said that the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are mistaken is they believe that principal offensive by the Warsaw Pact will come from Central Europe, adding that the Soviet Union was attempting to encircle NATO in another way.

He referred to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Soviet presence in Aden, Angola, Ethiopia, Libya and Chad as well as Moscow's attempts to have a presence in Oman and North Yemen.

Elaborating, Lt General Abu Ghazalah said that the best means to confront the Soviet conspiracy is that the states of Western Europe and America should supply arms and military aid to the states exposed to the Soviet danger in order to be able to defend themselves.

AS-SADAT COMMENTS ON LIBYA, FRENCH POLICY REPORTED

LD151707 Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 10-16 Jan 81 pp 38-40

[Jean-Pax Mefret report: "As-Sadat: Why Did Giscard Allow That to Happen?"]

[Text] Things were going well. Anwar as-Sadat was conversing with his two French interlocutors Dewavrin and Etrillard, young Giscardians transformed for the occasion--and apparently on their own iniaitiave--into Giscard d'Estaing's doves. In the garden of the Egyptian president's private residence in his native village some 100 km from Cairo, the winter sun was shedding its still warm rays. The security men, half listening to the conversation and keeping an eye on the clumps of trees surrounding the veranda, had resumed their routine surveillance. A servant in a white jacket was serving jasmine tea....

As-Sadat was discussing Camp David: "I am optimistic. A great step forward has been made. This is the first time that the Israelis have accepted the Palestinian identity...." He commented on the European initiative: "Interesting. Europe should participate in building what we prepared at Camp David. However, it should do so with the United States. Without U.S. aid nothing can be achieved, for the overwhelming reason that the Israelis only listen to the Americans." He returned to "the Israeli-Arab partition of Jerusalem with one mayor, an Arab mayor followed by an Israeli mayor, elected in rotation every 6 months...."

Suddenly the atmosphere changed. The official interpreter paled slightly, the Egyptian youth and sport minister sat up and As-Sadat's right hand clenched his pipe: A green devil had passed by.

Chad! Hugues Dewavrin, Chairman of Valery Giscard d'Estaing's wholehearted young supporters had just mentioned Chad. That is something you do not do in front of As-Sadat. Especially when you are French and you claim to "work for the president of the republic."

The paternalistic tone adopted by the rais for this informal conversation with two young Frenchmen grew stern. His voice suddenly hardened.

"Never!" he said, nervously tapping the arms of his cane armchair. "France ought never to have allowed Al-Qadhdhafi to intervene in Chad. That should have been prevented! The whole of Africa would then have hailed France. Today Africa is reproaching your country. Why? Why did my friend Giscard allow that to happen?"

The contrast was disturbing. As-Sadat loses all his serenity when Al-Qadhdhafi's name is mentioned.

"He is on my western border," he said. "His intrusion in Chad shows that he is trying to surround us. He wants to create a joint state with Syria where almost 5,000 Soviet experts are at present living! However, if there is the slightest incident along the Nile I will be there. I have the best armaments in the whole Arab world. Nobody should forget that the Arabs cannot do anything without Egypt, While Egypt can do anything it wishes without the Arabs."

You feel that the man of peace would not be slow to turn into a devil of war in order to put an end to what he calls "Libyan adventurism" if it threatened his borders. As-Sadat would do it with all the more enthusiasm since he knows that that is his people's unanimous will.

"We are very worried by Libya," Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali told the two young Giscardians later. "At present that country has a very large infrastructure enabling big transport aircraft to land. Three international airports have been constructed there in recent years. That is all very serious. Especially when you know that Libya is led by Al-Qadhdhafi who, with Idi Amin Dada and Bokassa, is one of the three madmen with whom Africa is afflicted."

Those sentiments were echoed by the youth minister who, while taking care not to comment on Al-Qadhdhafi's attitude--"I prefer to leave that to President as-Sadat: I do not want to make mistakes"--also confirmed "the disturbing infiltration by the Soviets in the Middle East" and warned that "Europe's stability is linked to the Arab world's stability."

This is an "increasingly precarious stability," according to Anwar as-Sadat, "in the Gulf countries where you find the same conditions which sparked off the upheaval in Iran: a country, a royal family, oil."

The two young Giscardians had not expected to find so much virulent anti-Soviet feelings in Egypt. However, during the 4 days their visit lasted it was present in all the conversations, on an equal footing with the Camp David agreements but also with the regrets, if not reproaches, expressed about French foreign policy.

"France abandoned us a long time ago," the Egyptian People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Office director explained to them. "Formerly the French schools were the best in Cairo. Today France only sends young voluntary workers as teachers. They are only here to serve their time and are not very interested in their mission as teachers. That is a pity...."

"Yes," the People's Assembly speaker confirmed to them. "Most Egyptians regard France as a second homeland. Do not forget that our passports are bilingual, written in both French and Arabic. Although we are no longer a French-speaking country as far as language is concerned we still are as regards civilization. It was your constitution which served as a model for ours."

Regrets, reproaches too. Like those expressed--less diplomatically-by the young Egyptian liberals--Hugues Dewavrin's and Gilles Etrillard's counterparts.

"How do you explain the fact that you have good relations with people who are opposed to the Camp David agreements when you say that you are in favor of Israel's security?" Or: "It is not simply by well-meaning words that Europe can help us. Giscard must not simply be a Mr 'Good Offices.' It is time for action not words."

From the districts of Cairo to the Al-Qantarah ruins, on the other side of the Suez Canal, in the city evacuated by the Israelis, the two young Giscardians collected many "messages."

Although As-Sadat gave an evasive reply to Hugues Dewavrin's question as to whether he intends to visit France before the spring, there is no doubt that the most comforting memento to take back to the president will be the personal proposal made by the mayor of the ruined city of Al-Qantarah, to call the road leading to the Israeli border Avenue Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

PALME DELEGATION RECEIVED BY OFFICIALS 15 JAN

Talks With 'Aziz

JN151231 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, received Olof Palme, the UN secretary general's personal envoy, along with his accompanying delegation, today.

Discussion at the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the two Foreign Ministry under secretaries, completed the talks that began yesterday on the efforts being exerted by the UN mission, the nonaligned movement and the Islamic Conference Organization to find a just and honorable solution to the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

Tariq 'Aziz received Olof Palme twice yesterday. He reviewed Iraq's efforts in this regard, and stressed Iraq's firm stand on its and the Arab nation's rights.

Meeting With Husayn

JN151950 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Staff Field Marshall Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, this evening received Olof Palme, former Swedish prime minister and UN secretary general's personal envoy, along with his accompanying delegation.

At the outset of the meeting, Palme reviewed his efforts in his capacity of the UN secretary general's envoy to reach a peaceful settlement for the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

During the meeting, the president-leader reiterated Iraq's tenacious stand on this conflict--a stand declared by his excellency in his speech on 28 September 1980 and in his excellency's speech on the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army--and Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the UN envoy for the sake of reaching a just and honorable settlement of the conflict.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary and acting director of the presidential office; and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister.

Olof Palme left Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to the INA, Palme said: I was greatly honored to have met President Saddam Husayn. His excellency reiterated Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the endeavors that are being exerted for the sake of ending the fighting and solving the conflict between Iraq and Iran by peaceful means.

Olof Palme added that he will continue his good offices to stop the fighting between Iraq and Iran and to reach a peaceful settlement for the conflict between the two countries.

TARIQ 'AZIZ INDICATES CHANGE IN DEMANDS FOR PEACE

JN152017 Doha QNA in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 15 Jan (QNA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, in an article that was published here today, stated that Iraq was ready to suspend its demand concerning its legitimate rights to its lands and [illegible] Shatt al-'Arab, if Iran halted its statements announcing its hostility and waging various campaigns against Iraq, but Iran did not comply.

The Iraqi official described his country's decision to wage war against Iran as a serious decision Iraq could not have taken without planning and a clear will.

In his article, published by the AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine, Tariq 'Aziz confined Iraq's objectives from the war with Iran to two matters, the first pertaining to Iraq's sovereignty over its territory, which he said, is acknowledged in all the international agreements which date back to 1913 and until the 1975 Algiers agreement. All these agreements stress Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab.

The second matter concerns the Ahvaz area, and Tariq 'Aziz stresses that Iraq has no other objectives other than these two.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 216

JN151733 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Communique No 216 issued by the Armed Forces General Command 15 January 1981]

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)--In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With high morale and capability, our valiant forces continued to tighten their control over their operational sectors and to deal painful blows to the racist Persian enemy, inflicting further losses in life and equipment on him. Following are the results of our armed forces' activities yesterday and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Skirmishes continued between our units and the Persian enemy in the Sayf Sa'd area. Our forces destroyed two tanks, one armored personnel carrier and one stockpile of hardware.

B. Our forces killed three enemy personnel and destroyed one excavator in the Mehran area.

C. Our units attacked a concentration of enemy personnel and positions in the Dezful area, inflicting the following losses on him:

1. 16 killed.

2. Five vehicles, three of which were loaded with hardware, one gun and two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed.

D. Our forces destroyed two enemy vehicles and one observation post in the Shush area.

E. Our forces killed two enemy personnel and destroyed one vehicle in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

F. Our forces destroyed one vehicle and one gun in the Ahvaz area.

G. Our units attacked enemy personnel and positions in the Abadan area, inflicting the following losses on them:

1. Nine killed

2. Two vehicles, seven guns, one rocket launcher, two stockpiles of hardware and three excavators were destroyed.

H. Our planes today raided enemy personnel, armor and vehicles in the Gilan-e Gharb area, scoring direct hits on them. Our planes returned safely to base.

Total known enemy losses: 30 killed, 2 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 11 vehicles, 9 guns of various calibers, 1 rocket launcher, 5 stockpiles of hardware, 4 excavators and 1 observation post.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 18 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: one tank, five vehicles, two guns and one rocket launcher were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 January 1981

OBSERVATIONS OF BAGHDAD IN PERSIAN TO IRAN

NC151845 [Editorial Report] Baghdad in Persian to Iran was monitored from 0600 to 1000 GMT on 3, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14 January.

On 3 January the talks and commentaries ridicule radio Tehran reports on Iraqi military losses; condemn Khomeyni for prolonging the war; discuss the dire economic situation in Iran; criticize the Iranian leaders by calling them a bunch of "illiterates spreading corruption on earth" and "power-thirsty infidels;" and refer to Bani-Sadr's letter to Khomeyni confessing that the situation is going from bad to worse. The broadcast also carries a call to the "Muslim Iranian brothers" saying that Iraq supports a peaceful settlement of the differences while Khomeyni believes in continuing the war.

On 6 January the talks broadcast by the radio condemn Khomeyni for trying to debase the Iranian armed forces personnel; discuss the crimes and atrocities committed by the Iranian regime; refer to the open letter by Iranian lawyers on the need for investigations into the existence of torture in Iranian prisons; discuss the Iranian regime's demagogic characteristics; note the Iraqi victories in the war; and ridicule Khomeyni's recent decision to adopt a foreign policy. Also included in one broadcast was a letter from an Iranian listener lamenting the destruction of Iran.

On 7 January a talk discusses how those who should fear the wrath of the people are not the devoted clergy--without naming any--but the "filthy mercenary" clergy. A call follows telling the "struggling Iranian people" that the "time is opportune" for them "to raise your voices more strongly in opposition to this executioner and the madmen" and that "it is the duty of each and every one of you to save your country, crush the regime's plots, and go on strikes: wherever you may be. The next talk discusses the wave of condemnations in Iran and now those in the leadership are condemning each other. A second call goes to "the revolutionary and freedom-seeking people of Iran," telling them that their revolution has been stolen by the "criminal clergy." The remaining talks discuss how the Iranian regime, in the light of its defeat in the war, should have accepted Iraq's 28 September proposals; the 60th anniversary of the formation of Iraq's armed forces; criticize Khomeyni for wanting to export his revolution and his purges. The broadcast also contains two letters from Iranian listeners: one complains about the situation in Iran and the other thanks radio Baghdad for conveying the truth to the Iranians.

On 10 January the radio asks why Khomeyni wants to go abroad for medical treatment and in a second talk says that he should not be allowed to escape on the pretext of needing medical care. A call to the students and professors of the universities and to the lawyers follows, asking them to raise their voice in opposition to the trampling of human rights in Iran. The next talks ridicule the "imaginary" victory of the Iranian army in the war and discuss the Iranian regime's intentions to destroy the Iranian Army. A call follows to the Iranian people, telling them that Iraq does not covet an inch of Iran's territory and that Khomeyni has told his representatives not to attend the Islamic conference because efforts might be made during the conference to mediate between Iran and Iraq. A letter from an Iranian listener asking why the world does not hear the Iranian people's voice is followed by a talk discussing the oppression in Iran and Khomeyni's interventions in Iraq's affairs while failing to see the destruction he has caused in Iran.

On 14 January the broadcast starts with "greetings to you Muslims and oppressed people of Iran" and says that "we commence our program for you with the good tidings that it seems the days of your oppression are ending." The talk then goes on to discuss the rising wave of opposition in Iran and calls on the Iranian nation to "rise and show valor and crush the mercenary government forces." The next commentary is on the chaotic economic situation in Iran, followed by a call to the Iranian armed forces personnel asking them to inform the Iranian people of the regime's atrocities. The next talk discusses shortages in Iran, followed by a commentary criticizing Bani-Sadr for self-contradictions. In continuation, a commentary says "despite claims and propaganda shows by the regime of the pharaohs, we are informing you of the truth. We, the Muslim nation of Iraq are your neighbors and are not willing to see you army's disintegration. The Muslim Iranian nation needs an army which can, if attacked by the imperialists--the same imperialists whose vessels have turned the Indian Ocean and the proximities of the (?Strait of Hormuz) into their circus grounds--defend itself." The commentary continues: "Were we not right in saying that Khomeyni, acting on

orders of his imperialist master, created an excuse for the war to start so that the Iranian Army could be destroyed? And now by continuing this path he is completing his sinister plan." The next talk condemns the "idiotic policy" of the Iranian regime in stifling national minorities. The talk is followed by another criticizing the "illiterate mullahs" for their demagogies and machinations. A call follows telling the Iranian armed forces personnel and the Iranian people to identify committee members and revolution guards and not to let them escape. This is followed by a talk condemning Khomeyni for having placed "sources of imitation such as Mr Shari'at Madari and Shobeyr Khaqani and other 'Ulema and devoted clergy under house arrest intheir homes in Qom and other cities in Iran."

Most of the talks broadcast on 7 January and 14 January are repeated twice during the duration of the program. All the talks and commentaries of the monitored casts are interspersed with popular Iranian music with occasional martial music following calls.

CLANDESTINE RADIO CALLS ON KURDS TO REVOLT

JN151615 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Revolution in Surani Kurdish 1500 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Excerpts] We notice that enemies have centered their attention and greed on the oil wells in Kurdistan. At the turn of the century, big powers competed to occupy and exploit the oil wells in the Middle East. Since Kurdistan is rich in oil, it was included in the big powers' conspiracies and their attempts to impose their hegemony on Kurdistan. Thus the partitioning of Kurdistan, while bringing prosperity to Western countries, resulted in misery and unhappiness for the Kurdish people. Oil wells in Kurdistan became well springs of blood and brought suffering to our people. Our people were oppressed, dispersed and divided, under the pretext of protecting oil wells. Many Kurdish villages were razed in Kirkuk and Khanaqin and Arab tribes replaced Kurds in these areas. Some time ago, several oil wells were discovered in the Kuysanjaq area and the fascists in Baghdad ordered that nine villages in the vicinity be razed and their inhabitants removed. Two months ago, peasants living in these villages were evacuated from the land of their ancestors under the pretext that these lands must be Arabized.

Oh honest Kurdish masses, oh citizens of Kuysanjaq and Taqtaqah, oh inhabitants of the villages who have been evacuated by the fascist regime and wrested from the land of your ancestors, rise up and protext against the oppression of this fascist regime. Explode like bombs in the face of your enemies. Set fire to the pipelines because the racists want to Arabize your land, the land which has remained Kurdish for a thousand years. Rise up because the fascists wish to assimilate you, rise up and topple the fascist regime in Baghdad.

BA'TH PARTY MEMBER MEETS LEBANESE CP SECRETARY

JN151640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Beirut, 15 Jan (INA)--Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon, met here today with George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general. The meeting was attended by Rafiq Abi Yunis, Ba'th party regional command member in Leganon. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the political developments in the Lebanese and Arab arenas. They agreed to continue their contacts and stressed the need to develop formulas of national action in Lebanon and render them capable of confronting all the conspiratorial designs aimed at harming Lebanon's unity, Arabism and territorial integrity.

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ZIAUL HAQ ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN150955 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Amman, 15 Jan (PETRA)--His Excellency Pakistani President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his wife arrived in Amman this morning on a short visit to Jordan, during which he will hold official talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

Husayn-Ziaul Haq Talks

JN151252 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Pakistani President Ziaul Haq led the Jordanian and Pakistani participants to talks that were held at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. The two sides reviewed developments in events witnessed by the Islamic world and the issues to be discussed at the third Islamic summit conference, which will be held in holy Mecca on 25 January. The two leaders stressed the need to prepare a suitable atmosphere to render the summit a success. They expressed the hope that the conference will establish the foundations of unity of Islamic thought and Islam's stand on Islamic and world issues in the various political and economic fields, proceeding from the premise that the Islamic states are an ideological unit, as well as a component of the southern states, and taking into consideration the concept of the dialogue between the industrialized North and the developing South.

The talks also focused on the Palestinian issue, Jerusalem particularly. The need to rally Islamic efforts to free Jerusalem from Zionist hegemony and Israeli occupation was stressed. The two sides affirmed that the conference in the holy city of Mecca, which contains the Al-Haram mosque, must reach decisions that are worthy of Jerusalem of the Al-Aqsa mosque; namely, an agreement on partical and serious steps by which to save Jerusalem and to release it from its captivity. The two sides also evaluated the reality of the Islamic world and the subjection of several of its states to various forms of foreign hegemony. They agreed on the need for joint action to liberate the Islamic world's states from all forms of foreign hegemony, whether military or otherwise. They also discussed further development of their already strong bilateral relations in various fields, in the service of both fraternal states.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Pakistani president and Pakistan in serving Islam and Islamic issues, as manifested in the Pakistani president's chairmanship of the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Pakistani president reviewed the results of his talks with the heads of the Islamic states that he has visited during his current tour.

The talks were attended for Jordan by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; the prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; the court minister, the commander in chief of the armed forces; the ministers of interior, information, occupied territory affairs, and foreign affairs; and his majesty's military secretary. They were attended on the Pakistani side by the foreign affairs minister; the education and tourism ministers, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; the naval chief of staff; the Pakistani president's advisers; and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

Ziaul Haq Departure

JN151432 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Amman, 15 Jan (PETRA)--The Pakistani president and Mrs Ziaul Haq left Amman this afternoon following a brief visit to Jordan.

MILITARY CHIEF VISITS SOVIET UNION, SEES USTINOV

LD131736 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of defence of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov received here today the chief of general staff of Syria's armed forces, General Hikmat ash-Shihabi who is here on a business visit. They had a friendly discussion of questions of mutual interest.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES VISITING SOVIET MINISTER

JN151144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Damascus--Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received the Soviet land reclamation and water resources minister this morning for a discussion of the cooperation between the two friendly states.

At the outset of the meeting, the Soviet minister conveyed the regards of the Soviet Council of Minister chairman to Dr al-Kasm. He also expressed admiration for the comprehensive economic achievements that he witnessed during his visit to the various parts of Syria, particularly in the implementation of irrigation projects.

End of Talks

JN151815 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] The final session of talks between the Syrian Arab delegation led by Dr Yahya al-Khayir, minister of the Euphrates Dam, and a Soviet delegation led by Nikolay Vasilyev, minister of land reclamation and water resources, was held in Damascus this afternoon.

During this session, viewpoints on issues of mutual interest in the field of land reclamation and irrigation were exchanged. The two sides also laid down guidelines for action in the field of joint cooperation, removing obstacles that hamper cooperation and speeding up implementation of projects prior to their scheduled dates.

IRANIAN MINISTER, DELEGATION ARRIVE 15 JAN

JN160617 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Musa Kalantari, minister of road and transport in the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Damascus last night at the head of an Iranian delegation comprising several officials from the Iranian Ministries of Road and Transport, National Guidance and Foreign Affairs.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the Iranian delegation will hold talks with Syrian officials dealing with bilateral relations, particularly the strengthening of cooperation in various fields of transport.

KHADDAM CONFERS WITH VISITING INDIAN OFFICIAL

JN151307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] This morning 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received (S. K. Singh), assistant foreign minister of India and the Indian Government's envoy. They discussed the forthcoming nonaligned foreign ministers conference to be held in New Delhi next month. They also reviewed the Middle East and the international situation. Khaddam stressed that Syria will cooperate with India to make the conference a success and to face the current attempts to undermine the nonaligned movement.

The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister.

LEBANESE MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS PREMIER AL-KASM

JN150646 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 14 Jan 81

["Text" of interview granted by Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm to Lebanese magazine AS-SAYYAD--no date given]

[Text] Question: With the advent of the new year, what are your expectations regarding Syria and the Arab homeland initially, before moving to the outside world?

Answer: Syria is an indivisible part of the Arab homeland. Therefore, it cannot be unaffected by what is taking place around it. Syria influences and is influenced. We cannot predict or expect a certain situation for it outside the Arab area's framework. As President Hafiz al-Asad has said, no one can predict anything. The age of prophets is over.

Question: We are not asking for predictions, but for an examination and exploration of the changes taking place in the region.

Answer: Yes, changes are occurring. But it is clear that there is a plan, or rather a strategy in Syria that is immutable. This strategy's backbone is the central problem in the Arab homeland: The Palestinian problem. Our position on the Palestinian issue is firm and clear. We oppose all capitulatory solutions, no matter what masks they assume. We support any Arab country that opposes capitulatory solutions, irrespective of its internal system and its stand on any other issue. In my opinion, Arab solidarity is urgently required to confront all capitulatory solutions represented in the Camp David process and the European and other initiatives that followed it. As far as we are concerned, we will always stand fast.

Question: Undoubtedly, there will be actual changes with the advent of the new year. The new U.S. administration seems to be brandishing the slogan of the big stick. President-elect Ronald Reagan was extremely stringent in his statements during the electoral campaign. His inflexibility continues to manifest itself clearly. In his latest statement on the hostages, he intimated that the lives of 52 hostages in Iran is nothing compared to U.S. pride. Moreover, it was Reagan who raised the issue of the Jordanian option. I believe that the Syrian strategy should take into account such proposals. What is your stand on the new U.S. president and his options?

Answer: I assure you that Reagan's stringent electoral threats will not frighten us at all. I think that once he is in the White House, he will see a situation different from what he used to see outside.

Question: True, flying over Rome is not like seeing it.

Dr al-Kasm continued: President Hafiz al-Asad has pointed out that once there is any change in the U.S. policy, we will be ready to look into this change. However, we know through experience that the White House stand has not changed through the assumption of the presidency by the various U.S. Presidents. All I can say in this regard is that Reagan will not have better luck than President Carter in influencing our stands. We are calling for sound Arab solidarity because we realize that it is only strong Arab solidarity that influences the White House and whoever is occupying it, as it affects U.S. economic and strategic interests.

Question: We are entering 1981, however, and we see that Arab solidarity is in a state of total collapse.

Answer: Yes. However, we hope that this temporary state of affairs will inspire a reawakening. We are confident that the Arab people are capable of waking everyone, for they are the basis on which everything rests.

Question: The people, any people, are usually the last to know.

Answer: No. The people are always the basis and they always have a role to perform.

Question: It is believed that 1981 will witness a new European initiative on the Middle East crisis. It is also believed that this initiative is designed to involve other Arab parties in the settlement.

Answer: The United States will try this. Rest assured, however, that as long as Syria exists, all of these attempts will be of no avail. Everyone knows that the Palestinian problem cannot be solved without those to whom the issue actually belongs: The Palestinians, together with the Syrians. We have rejected all initiatives and I have told several European officials that we will not oppose the European initiative only if it proceeds from the Arab Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, the return to their land and the establishment of their independent state under the PLO's leadership; and if it proceeds from a recognition of the need for total withdrawal from all occupied Arab land.

Question: You have spoken about Arab solidarity with some optimism. Are you optimisitc about the possibility of achieving Arab solidarity in 1981? Has the Arab good offices committee made any progress in this regard?

Answer: I did not say I am optimistic, but I wish that this could be achieved. Arab solidarity is in the Arab issue's interest. The Arab committee is not a mediation committee but a committee of a fraternal initiative. I wish it success, particularly since it is still at the outset of the road.

Question: Political observers say that the game of nations being enacted in the arena now includes a scheme designed to isolate Syria.

Dr al-Kasm interrupted, saying: Have you only now realized this?

[Question continues] I mean this scheme has begun to be implemented in fact and is becoming a reality. There is the Syrian-Jordanian dispute, the Syrian-Iraqi dispute and the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, in addition to the Lebanese crisis, the recent events in Zahlah and the French stand on these events. All of this makes us, as political observers, believe that there is more to it than meets the eye.

Answer: Yes, this is true. In Zahlah, for instance, it was confirmed to everyone that we only intervened to stop the fighting. We replied with arms only when the deterrent forces were attacked. Last year, when we wanted to withdraw from Beirut, everyone criticized us, including those who have asked for France's support. They begged us not to withdraw. The residents of Zahlah were the first to insist on the deterrent forces' presence.

We are not surprised by the current escalation of events. Indeed, we are not surprised by any escalation from any quarter that seeks to conspire against Syria and its role. We have calculated for everything.

Question: Several commentaries published in various newspapers have spoken about so-called pressure on the PLO to prevent it from attending the Amman summit conference. How true is this?

Answer: All I know is that the PLO Executive Committee decided not to participate in the Amman summit, deeply convinced of the soundness of this decision. Brother Yasir 'Arafat said in this regard that the PLO's decision not to participate in the Amman summit was a purely Palestinian decision. Obviously, this was a sound national decision, supported by all Palestinians.

Question: It is also said, however, that some Palestinian groups would have jumped on the bandwagon of the Jordanian option had they been given the choice.

Answer: I do not believe that this would have taken place, for it is not in the Palestinians' interest. There might be some individuals, but not groups.

Question: A lot has been said about the merger of unity between Syria and Libya. You preceded President Hafiz al-Asad to Tripoli on his recent visit to Libya. Many thought that the implementation of this unity was imminent, while others believed that it was inconceivable for the Ba'th Party to dissolve itself, taking into account its long history in Arab solidarity, which is compatible with the popular organizations in which the Jamahiriyah believes. Would you tell us about the progress made regarding the unitary merger between Syria and Libya?

Answer: During my visit to Libya with President al-Asad, I (?sensed) the deep belief of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Arab Libyan people in this unity. All of us in Syria believe in this unionist march and its major events. You know that unity is the first component of the Ba'th Party's motto [unity, liberty, socialism].

In fact, we have achieved an important step along this path through the formation of the committee of which I am a member. This committee is studying the revolutionary experiments in both Libya and Syria, particularly Syria's long experience, in order to benefit from them in establishing the merger. Here I can stress, contrary to reports by some Lebanese papers, that leader Al-Qadhdhafi has never asked us to dissolve the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Rather, he emphasized that one of the reasons for the dissolution of the unity between Syria and Egypt, in the days of the United Arab Republic, was the Ba'th Party's self-dissolution.

The recent step we have made will undoubtedly be followed by important steps. We and Libya want to establish a firmly entrenched unity that cannot be split by anything and that can overcome all obstacles and impediments. This is no easy matter.

Question: Dr al-Kasm, what do you expect will happen regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war in 1981?

Answer: We hope that this war will end as soon as possible. However, even if it ends, as we all hope, it will definitely have (?repercussions) and will bring reactions.

Question: What do you expect in this regard?

Answer: I do not want to delve in predictions. However, on the level of peoples, an end to this war is in the interest of the Arab and Iranian peoples. As for the level of individuals, this is not important.

Question: I can deduce from your remarks that there might be a change in individuals.

Answer: I said that this is absolutely unimportant. In World War II, Britain's victory did not prevent the fall of its prime minister, Winston Churchill.

Question: What about Lebanon in 1981? How do you view Lebanon and what events do you anticipate regarding it?

Answer: My maternal uncles are Lebanese. Thank God, they are still alive in Lebanon. I hope that Lebanon in 1981 will be in a better state than it was in 1980. I am sure that all Arabs are hurt by the state of affairs in Lebanon. All Syrian citizens, both officials and ordinary citizens, wish that peace would prevail in Lebanon. Perhaps this abnormal state of affairs, which is more serious now than at any time in the past, will be an incentive for unity and accord among the Lebanese people. Of course, those who are destroying Lebanon have no hope.

On our part, we want peace to be restored in Lebanon out of our love for Lebanon and for our cause and Arabism. Despite the fact that the Lebanese issue is indivisible from the Arab issue and is closely linked with the Palestinian issue, it does not mean that the Lebanese crisis cannot be solved independently of the Palestinian crisis.

In my opinion, it would be sufficient for the Lebanese to agree with one another and to stop the fighting for the Lebanese crisis to be solved. However, the discord among the Lebanese is the result of Arab contradictions, since the explosive differences among the Arab states are deepened in Lebanon, which thus creates an obstacle to the achievement of harmony among the Lebanese.

I wonder at this group suicide being carried out by the Lebanese. The Lebanese people are not powerless; it is the officials with their problems who are powerless.

If there is any interference in Lebanon, then there is interference in Syria. However, our people have and will always confront all suspect interference with awareness, responsibility and firmness. Our people are aware of the interferers' motives: to undermine this people's national security. Thus, our people do not and will not allow these interferers to plot against them.

We have played a role of reconciliation in Lebanon, but the Lebanese must play their own role, too. Here I would like to ask why the Lebanese do not implement the provisions of the accord announced by President Sarkis. We hope that these provisions will be implemented. Though our mission is to prevent fighting, this does not mean that it is our duty to take the place of the Lebanese in attempting to achieve harmony and peace.

An end to the fighting is one thing and the attainment of harmony is another. The achievement of harmony is the duty of those to whom the issue belongs.

We are applying pressure in the hope of bringing about harmony. However, in whose interest and for whom are the Western states applying pressure? We believe they are doing so in order to prevent the implementation of the accord.

I say candidly that if there are legitimate demands that we withdraw the deterrent force from Lebanon, we will do so, however, we will not subject ourselves to the Israeli knife.

Al-Kasm added: Yes, we will remain in Lebanon as long as our withdrawal would result in Israeli expansion.

Question: And the Palestinians? How are the Palestinians associated with the achievement of harmony?

[Answer] The Palestinians are paying with the blood of their sons and children, which is also what the Lebanese are doing daily as a result of this dirty war. I do not imagine that there are people with a more direct interest in a Lebanese accord than the Palestinians. However, if we define our desires in accordance with the so-called document of the Lebanese front, it would be preferable for the Lebanese people to be arbitrators.

Dr al-Kasm added: Yes, let them have a referendum on it and I am confident that the majority of the Lebanese people, whether Christians or Muslims, will refuse to accept this document.

[Question] It has been said that a meeting will soon take place between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad. Do you believe that such a meeting will offer a ray of light toward a solution to the crisis?

Answer: We have offered everything for which President Sarkis asked us in order to bolster his legitimacy and help him. Syria will continue to do so. It is true that contacts have decreased lately. However, Syria will always support legitimacy.

Question: Did the last visit to Syria by Shafiq al-Wazzan help to extend new bridges between Syria and Lebanon?

Dr al-Kasm asked: What do you mean by new bridges?

[Question] I mean has this visit helped in extending new bridges for the contacts that had earlier decreased?

Dr al-Kasm said: Shafiq al-Wazzan, Lebanese prime minister, conveyed a message from President Sarkis to President Hafiz al-Asad. A meeting of the two presidents has been studied. President Hafiz al-Asad welcomes a meeting with President Sarkis. As the venue of such an expected meeting, this is not a problem. This will be decided by the two presidents.

Question: The Syrian budget for 1981 amounted to 30 billion Syrian pounds. This is an extremely high figure. What does it signify?

[Answer] On the contrary, the figure is not high. Last year's budget amounted to 29 billion Syrian pounds. If we calculate the rate of inflation, we see that the budget's figures are realistic and are not very high at all. What is important is that the figure of 30 billion Syrian pounds is a budget in which expenditures and revenues have been studied in a balanced manner.

[Question] What is the rate of inflation in Syria?

[Answer] It is the smallest rate in all the other Arab countries. Our budget for next year is in harmony with our local revenues. Our investment projects have begun to show a return since 1980.

Question: Will this be followed by a public tax increase?

[Answer] Absolutely not. However, we have amended the tax system, so that taxes are now levied on actual rather than estimated profits. There is also a tax reform, the effects of which will appear in 1982. It is related to the separate tax that is applied throughout the world.

Question: How does Arab aid figure into this budget?

[Answer] Arab aid covers only a small part of the defense budget. Moreover, in view of current world monetary inflation the Arab aid earmarked since 1976, for instance, is no longer sufficient in 1981. For example, the amount that was enough to purchase (?three) planes can now buy only two.

[Question] [Words indistinct] cover this deficit, particularly since oil prices are constantly rising?

[Answer] What you are saying is correct. However, Syria will not beg from anyone. This is our policy. The capable Arabs should appreciate this, so it is up to them.

[Question] An important point that deserves attention is that Algeria, a member of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, is mediating between Washington and Tehran in an effort to secure the U.S. hostages' release. It is also a member of the Arab good offices committee to bring about Arab solidarity. Do you believe that the purpose of this Algerian stand is to prevent Morocco from playing a role or is Algeria, under Chadli Bendjedid, adopting a different course than that taken under the late President Houari Boumedienne?

Answer: Algeria is not following a different course. Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid is leading the fraternal Algerian people with confidence and faith in their national and pan-Arab march. If Algeria is asked to act as a mediator between two states in an issue like that of the hostages, it is asked to do so because it is a state which is acceptable and trusted by the two sides, particularly Iran. This is something that Morocco lacks.

As for Algeria's role in the Arab good offices committee, this is very natural. On this occasion, I would like to assert that Syria is proud of Algeria's stand and of its national and pan-Arab stands in all fields.

[Question] By preventing Morocco from playing a role, were you referring to the Polisario issue and not to that of the mediation on the hostages? Were you referring to the possible suspension of U.S. arms to Morocco?

[Answer] This issue of the Sahara is complicated. For instance, the French colonialists took four provinces from us and annexed them to Lebanon. Does this mean that we will demand the restoration of these provinces? This is impossible.

[Question] The following is a central remark: Shortly after the Syrian forces' deployment on the Jordanian border and after the situation reached the brink of war, the withdrawal took place. Was this deployment mere muscleflexing or was it meant simply as a threat, particularly as President Hafiz al-Asad has said that the Syrian soldier does not want to fight the Jordanian soldier. Can you clarify this point?

[Answer] Massing Syrian troops on the border was meant to make the Jordanian regime understand that it is too weak to threaten the security and safety of people in this country and that it has to give up its abortive attempts to incite the people, as well as to stop conspiring against the Palestinian isue, particularly the PLO. Our stand on any regime closely relates to it's stand on the Palestinian issue. This is a central issue for us. I would like to stress that all the Jordanian people know quite well that the Jordanian regime is a primary accomplice in plotting against Syria. It enters the train of plotting not out of love for this one or hatred of that one, but to peddle the plot which sprang from Camp David and passes through Amman. This has become clearer now than ever before.

[Question] Doctor, some say that Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was successful in mediating between Syria and Jordan and that, therefore, the Syrian withdrawal from the border took place. Others [words indistinct] a hand in this withdrawal.

Answer: Kuznetsov had nothing to do in this regard. As for Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, he had very noble stands. He expressed the stand of Saudi Arabia and conveyed a message from His Majesty King Khalid to the Syrian president in this regard.

Question: Did Jordan carry out the Syrian conditions?

[Answer] Yes, otherwise there would not have been a withdrawal.

[Question] Why do these mutual press campaigns continue?

Answer: In spite of everything, the Jordanian press daily publishes a continuous stream of lies. I hope they will come to their senses before they are forced to do so by the people. Everyone has realized that the attempts at sabotage, murder and conspiracy to which Syria has been subjected had clear and documented external causes. The Syrian people today are repulsing all of these conspiracies and are more unified and cohesive than ever before, for they realize that Zionism, U.S. imperialism and their allies are wagering on destroying their nationalist, pan-Arab course. Our people are determined not to be defeated and thus will not be defeated.

[Question] The fifth article of the cooperation and friendship treaty between Syria and the Soviet Union provides for consultations when either of the two countries is faced by a threat to the area or to peace. Did the state of tension between Syria and Jordan call for consultations with Moscow?

Answer: The Jordanian Army cannot threaten Syria. Such a topic was not discussed with the Soviet Union. We must know that the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union is a natural outcome of long relations of effective cooperation between us. The Soviet Union is a real supporter and big friend of the Arabs. It stood and is still standing on the side of the Arab issue. It is also supporting us militarily and politically against the aggressive outlooks of Zionism and the imperialist schemes. There are strong relations in all fields between us.

Question: Your excellency, you expressed hope that 1981 will be the year of Arab solidarity, or the year of a return to Arab solidarity.

Dr al-Kasm interrupted, saying: On the clear basis of fighting all defeatist solutions and confronting the aggressive policy of Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

[Question continues] What then is the plan that Syria has in mind to bring this about?

[Answer] We have not deviated from Arab solidarity, nor did we cause the differences that appeared. We hope that the Arab countries will return to the real foundations of Arab solidarity.

Question: That is, to the Baghdad summit resolutions?

Answer: The Baghdad summit specified the lowest level required for this solidarity. We hope to move from that to a higher level. However, some quarters have not even held to the lowest required level of Arab solidarity. One thing is clear: The purpose of Arab solidarity is to confront Israeli aggression and expansion and to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem. We always have a basic slogan, which is: The West Bank and Gaza before the Golan. We are optimistic and are prepared to face the enemy in any arena.

CRIMINALS REPORTED KILLED IN ALEPPO 14 JAN

JN142208 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Text] Aleppo--Security organs in the City of Aleppo at noon today killed the fugitive criminal Mustafa al-Qassar following a close surveillance of his attempt to carry out one of his crimes at Al-Jamiliyah quarter. The aforementioned criminal had taken part in several acts that had disturbed the peace as well as in sabotage actions against the people's establishments.

The security organs this afternoon stormed a center used by the Muslim Brotherhood gang to launch acts of murder and sabotage in the (Huraythan) quarter of the Aleppo suburbs. The two criminals who were in the den were killed. A number of weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as documents exposing the gang's external links and its criminal acts were seized inside the den.

Another criminal was killed in the Bab al-Hadid area of Aleppo while he was trying to carry out sabotage against innocent citizens.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B: EUROPEAN POLICY TOES U.S. LINE

LD151539 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Europe and The U.S. Solution Line"]

[Text] The Middle East area is currently witnessing increasing European activity aimed at materializing the European initiative and its views on a final and comprehensive solution of the Middle East crisis. This activity centers on the search for a way by which the European Common Market Community will be able to assert its presence in the arena of the Middle East crisis and to exploit this presence so as to serve its own interests in the area.

However, European policy on the Middle East and on the Palestine problem in particular is still strongly linked to U.S. policy and its hostile attitude toward the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state of their own on their national soil. In its treatment of the Middle East crisis and the Palestine problem, European activity entirely revolves around a number of elements, including:

1. Support for U.S. efforts in dealing with the Middle East crisis and seeking a solution to it.

2. Entertaining Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and considering them the basis of every settlement in the Middle East.

3. Great solicitude for Israel's so-called right to exist within secured and recognized borders.

What does all this mean?

We realize that the U.S. solution precludes any official dealing with the PLO and recognition of it. It also rejects the idea of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Therefore, the essence of the U.S. solution, as is evident from the Camp David accords, is to deprive the Palestinian people of the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of their own. Western Europe is pursuing the same line although it does not say so.

Also the Common Market Community's entertaining Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the grounds that they are the basis of any "comprehensive and just settlement" of the Middle East crisis is an implicit denial of the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate and establish an independent state of their own on their national soil. This is because these two resolutions completely ignore such a right, the thing that prompted the General Assembly at its recent session to demand the rescinding of Resolution 242 in particular which, in the circumstances, cannot be the basis of just and comprehensive peace in the area.

Also the Common Market Community's anxiousness to emphasize on every occasion and in its political statements "the right of the state of Israel to exist" on Palestinian territory leaves no room for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The evidence is that the Common Market Community carefully and studiously ignores the term "Palestinian state" not even as a possibility or a proposal.

All these facts categorically prove beyond any shadow of doubt or guessing that all past, present, and future European moves are channelled into one course, the course of U.S. policy and the U.S. solution but in a disguised manner that would save Camp David from failure and, at the same time, secure Western Europe's interests in the area with the help of vague statements about undefined rights of the Palestinian people.

The adoption of the U.S. solution or trying to save it will not achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the area.

LIBYA

LOME CONFERENCE STATEMENT, RESPONSES REPORTED

LD152200 Tripoli JANA in English 1946 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Jan (JANA)--African leaders present in Lome on the occasion of Togo's national day have issued a statement which reads in part:

"The presidents have reviewed the events in Chad, particularly the agreement between the Jamahiriyah and the Government of National Unity in Chad concerning the establishment of unity between the two countries. Feeling that unity requires the consent of the peoples concerned, through their governmental apparatus, being concerned towards the increasing of tension and lack of security in the region, and also being concerned, on the other hand, towards the danger of military intervention in the region by foreign forces, they stress the following:

1. The Lagos conference is appropriate to realize genuine and lasting peace and security in Chad which has sovereignty, independence and tranquility.

2. They declare that the agreement of unity between the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Provisional Government of National Unity violates the spirit of the Lagos conference. They stress that a government elected in complete freedom and democracy, and not the Provisional Government of National Unity, is the only party capable of commiting the Chadian nation to sign basic agreements on a wide scale. They ask the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Provisional Government of National Unity to regard the agreement as null and void and ask other sides which have forces and military advisors on Chadian territories to immediately withdraw them.

3. All the member states of the Organization of African Unity, especially those adjoining Chad, are requested not to allow any foreign troops or Chadian rebels to use their soil as bases to attack the Republic of Chad.

4. They have decided to dispatch a special commission, with the help of the United Nations, if need be, and also a peacekeeping African force, including Benin, Congo, Guinea and Togo which will be positioned on the entire Chadian soil and whose duty is to see to the implementation of the Organization of African Unity's resolutions.

5. They send a warning that any attempts to hold elections without the supervision of the Organization of African Unity is futile.

6. They delegate the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity to organize free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the organization before the end of April.

Libyan Response

LD151455 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Statement issued by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison--no date given]

[Text] The People's Bureau for External Liaison has examined the statement issued by certain African heads of state following consultations during their attendance at Togo's celebrations of its national day. The People's Bureau expresses its satisfaction with most of the paragraphs contained in the statement with the exception of paragraph 2 which is considered an unjustifiable interference in the affairs of Chad.

The withdrawal of Libyan forces from Chad can only be requested by the party which asked for the entry of these forces. The Libyan forces entered Chad in accordance with a treaty and in accordance with a request by the president of the people of Chad, who has all the legitimacy because it was he who formed the Chad Liberation Movement--Frolinat--and it was he who led the liberation war for 20 years. It was he who, through armed struggle, reached the capital of Chad and overthrew the agent government of Maloum. Goukouni has all the legitimacy which enabled him to ask for the Libyan forces and to retain them. He alone can ask for the withdrawal of these forces. Libya will only respond to Goukouni's request and will withdraw its forces when requested. Goukouni Oueddei is the president of Chad and head of the Chad Liberation Movement. He has the revolutionary legitimacy and the lawful legitimacy that enables him to request the withdrawal of the Libyan forces after having performed their task with honor and bravery, after losing martyrs and after driving away and defeating the imperialist and reactionary attempts aimed at making Chad a base for aggression, and after participating in the achievement of security and stability in Chad and putting an end to the tragedies experienced by the Chadian people for many years.

If Goukouni Oueddei, who waged a long war of liberation and is the one who represents the Chadian people, if he does not have the legitimacy, how then could the other African heads of state have authority and legitimacy? Many of the heads of African states were leaders of liberation movements similar to the Frolinat liberation movement. President Goukouni has the legal legitimacy and the revolutionary legitimacy which he derived from a lengthy struggle.

The People's Bureau for External Liaison stresses that the political unity between the two countries will not be accomplished except after a referendum by the people of Chad, and that the statement issued by the African heads of state in Lome on the unity between the two countries is illogical and unlawful. The African heads of state failed to express (?such a view) when they discussed this topic. The OAU Charter urges the unity of the states of the continent and emphasizes that unity among African countries is a goal and efforts must be made to achieve it. How then could the African heads of state permit themselves to contradict and oppose what the charter stipulates and to oppose the aims of the OAU? If the African heads of state had not made such an error, it would have been possible to accept the statement.

The People's Bureau for External Liaison expresses its satisfaction with the third paragraph of the statement in which the African heads of state acknowledge that Hissein Habre is a mere rebel rejected by Africa after he had been rejected by the people of Chad. The bureau also expresses its appreciation for the call made by the African heads of state to the neighboring countries of Chad not to permit exploitation of the territories of these countries as a base for any aggressive action directed against the people of Chad.

At-Turayki Statement

AB160830 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 0725 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Statement made by Libyan Foreign Minister 'Ali Abd al-Salam at-Turayki at a press conference in Lome on 14 January--recording in English with simultaneous translation; transcription from the English language version]

[Text] [Intercepted in progress] Everyone knows that in the communique between Libya and Chad we have spoken about unity and it is the custom of Libya with any communique with African heads of state to speak about unity between the two peoples. As you know, the charter of the OAU is very clear concerning the unity between the African countries.

We have no whatever intention to merge with Chad before realizing elections in Chad according to the Lagos agreement. If the Chadian people after decide to unite themselves with Libya, this belongs to the Chadians to decide, not the French Government or other governments.

FOREIGN SECRETARY 'UBAYDI VISITS ETHIOPIA

LD152252 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 15 Jan (JANA)--Abt al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the secretary of the People's Committee and the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, met in Addis Ababa Dr Kalk Jadel [as received], Ethiopia's foreign minister and member of the Central Committee of the Ethiopian People's Party.

During this meeting, which the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Committee at the People's Bureau in Ethiopia attended, discussions revolved around bilateral relations and adequate ways of increasing cooperation in the best interest of the two peoples. Al-'Ubaydi presented the Ethiopian minister with a thorough account of the democratic experiment the Libyan Arab people are conducting in the Jamahiriyah through the people's congresses and committees. He also clarified the purpose behind the transformation of the Jamahiriyah's Embassies abroad into popular and brotherly bureaus, run by people endeavouring to strengthen relations between all the peoples and rejecting all forms of traditional diplomacy, in accord with the spirit of the radical solutions put forward in the third universal theory.

ARAB CONGRESS SECRETARIAT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD151656 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Jan (JANA)--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress said that the present ordinary session of the congress confirms the national progressive character of the organization. For the first time all Arab political forces and trade unions are taking part.

The permanent secretariat pointed out at a press conference in Tripoli yesterday that the consolidation and understanding created among Arab forces and their agreement to one charter and programme in the struggle for national liberation, democracy and progress are directed against U.S. imperialist domination and bases which constitute a direct threat to the freedom and security of the region, as well as to Africa and the Mediterranean.

The secretariat added that the Iraqi Ba'th Party and the right wing reactionary forces have failed in their attempts which were aimed at the Arab People's Congress. These forces fear the success of this organization which is a serious weapon in the Arab masses' hand against the interests of these forces.

The permanent secretariat condemned French intervention in the internal affairs of African countries, especially Chad, which consolidates the interest of U.S. imperialism in the region. The secretariat pointed to previous French intervention in the Western Sahara, Mauritania and Zaire, and the current naval, land and air attack against Central Africa.

The permanent secretariat announced that a memorandum was sent to the Islamic countries' foreign ministers conference which is to be held next Saturday in at Ta'if and Saudi Arabia [as received]. In this memorandum the secretariat elaborated on the repeated (Israeli)-U.S. backed aggressions against the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

In the memorandum, the secretariat called for the practical application of the "jihad call." "Jihad" it said, cannot be experienced through statements and leaflets or theory or a neutral stand toward the Palestinian people and their enemies.

Instead positive and practical steps should be taken which begin with the withdrawal of the Arab and Islamic assets from foreign banks and multi-national companies.

The memorandum also pointed out the U.S. military presence in some Arab and Islamic countries.

JALLUD OPENS ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SESSION

LD161024 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jan (JANA)--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud opened yesterday morning the debates of the (?second ordinary) session of Arab People's Congress at the people's hall in Tripoli. Delegations representing vocational and trade union organizations Arab and other liberation movements, in addition to some friendly popular delegation are taking part in this session.

Among those attending the opening session were 'Ali Bilkhayr, the assistant secretary of the General Arab Congress, and 'Abdallah Sahmul, the secretary of the people's committees affairs and assistant secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

The secretary general of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Peoples Congress stressed in his inaugural speech the importance of the meeting which came as the people's reply to the combination of humiliating circumstances that Arab nation was passing through.

He said that the moral value of the conference symbolized the unity between the Arab masses and progressive forces in the Arab world, and that the realization of Arab unity as the ultimate aim which the Arab nation strived to achieve, stressing that the Arab People's Congress would continue its endeavours to achieve this unity in spite of all imperialist and reactionary attempts.

He concluded his speech by saying that the congress coincided with the birthday of the immortal leader, 'Abd al-Jamal an-Nasir, and hailing the Egyptian people in their struggle against the defeatist and puppet regime.

MOROCCO

MOROCCO, MALTA ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE 15 JAN

LD151422 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jan 81

["Text" of Moroccan-Maltese joint communique issued on 15 January]

[Text] At the invitation of Maati Bouabid, prime minister and minister of justice of the Kingdom of Morocco, Dominic Mintoff, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, paid an official and friendly visit to Morocco 5-15 January 1981. Dominic Mintoff was accompanied on this visit by Minister of Health Dr Vincent Moran and a high level delegation.

The prime minister was received by His Majesty King Hasan II and had detailed talks with Prime Minister Maati Bouabid on the development of bilateral relations and cooperation and current international issues of interest to the nonaligned states.

The two prime ministers noted with concern the deterioration of the international situation. The two sides paid special attention to studying the situation in the Middle East, and reaffirmed their conviction that a permanent solution in the Middle East cannot be reached without the participation of the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and that tension cannot be reduced without the recognition and the reinstatement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to establish a free and independent state.

The two prime ministers undertook to continue their efforts to realize detente in the Mediterranean area, and stressed their commitment to the basic principles of nonalignment and the UN Charter.

The Moroccan prime minister expressed profound appreciation for Malta's initiatives on the Mediterranean at the European conference on security and cooperation in Madrid, which aim at obtaining an effective participation of the Mediterranean countries not participating in the conference when problems relating to security and cooperation in the area are studied.

The two prime ministers reviewed the development of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the good relations between the two countries. They noted the existence of further possibilities for the development of joint cooperation in all fields. Within this framework, the Moroccan-Maltese mixed commission agreed on a joint program for cooperation in the fields of industry, trade, agriculture, maritime and air transport, education, youth, sport, and health. For this purpose, a Moroccan ministerial delegation will visit Malta during the second half of February 1981 to follow-up the talks to complete this program.

The Moroccan Government agreed to the principles of purchasing shares in the Maltese shipbuilding company, and will inform the Maltese side of the manner in which this participation will be implemented.

The Moroccan Government expressed satisfaction with the removal of foreign military bases from Malta, a matter which is regarded as a significant contribution to peace and security in the Mediterranean. It pledged to fully support and help the neutral position of Malta, which is based on the UN charter and the principles of nonalignment and which was chosen by the Maltese people with full freedom on 31 March, 1979.

The two prime ministers strongly denounced all foreign interference which threaten security, stability, independence and the territorial integrity of the African states.

The Maltese prime minister expressed profound appreciation for the efforts being made by Morocco to reduce tension in Northwest Africa.

The two prime ministers reaffirmed their support for the right of the African people in Namibia to independence, and strongly denounced the racist regime in South Africa.

Dr Mintoff, in behalf of Dr Anton Buttigieg, president of the Republic of Malta, extended an invitation to His Majesty King Hasan II to visit Malta during 1981. The invitation was accepted by his majesty. The Maltese prime minister invited his Moroccan counterpart, Maati Bouabid, to visit Malta. The invitation was accepted, and its date will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

The Maltese prime minister expressed his profound appreciation for the warm welcome he and his delegation received, and his satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere which prevailed during the talks.

LE MATIN SAYS AL-QADHDHAFI THREATENS ALL AFRICA

LD151307 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 12 Jan 81 pp 1, 3

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "The Al-Qadhdhafi Threat"]

[Text] The announcement of the "merger" agreement between Libya and Chad loudly proclaimed in Tripoli has finally opened the eyes of those who did not want to face the truth.

Indeed this is purely and simply annexation following a procedure which totalitarian regimes have established and followed, notably with the Anschluss, the annexation of Czechoslovakia and the invasion of Afghanistan; the same regimes have the same effects. These totalitarian regimes can only be maintained by imperialism and can only survive by annexations. In this respect there is a striking similarity between the Ndjamena coup and the one in Kabul.

In both cases a loyal puppet government was installed and a military aid agreement concluded with it. A few months later the protector state invaded the country invoking the military aid agreement.

However it is an ill wind which blows nobody any good.

The Ndjamena coup has opened the eyes of African and European leaders. This has highlighted the fact that the real danger is the Libyan regime's threat to the entire African Continent and hence to Europe and that the trumped-up accusations leveled at Morocco and the real war being waged against it are merely diversions.

His Majesty Hassan II has shown the most perfect lucidity on the question of Al-Qadhdhafi's machinations. He long since realized the danger Al-Qadhdhafi represents and that is why he has several times urged reliable, legitimate and responsible African leaders, those who are really African, to wake up to the facts in order to prevent their countries, and the whole of Africa, being a stake in the superpowers' quarrels.

Events have once again proved him right. However it is to be hoped that the new awareness now being shown in Africa and in Europe will not stop at the theoretical stage. The time has come for truly African leaders to wake up to Africa's great problem in face of the dangers threatening it and to set aside anything which might divide it, starting with trumped-up problems like the Sahara problem.

It is essential to realize that Al-Qadhdhafi will not stop here. He has made no secret of his intentions and tomorrow it will be the turn of Chad's neighbors, the Sudan, the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Niger....

Of course initially Al-Qadhdhafi seems to be acting for himself but he is, in fact, merely an agent of the ideological imperialism which is manipulating him as it wishes.

Africa is, therefore, now at a crossroads. The question is whether the Africans wish to remain themselves, whether they want to preserve their independence and dignity. The time has come, therefore, to choose. We must be for or against Africa, side with those who defend it or those who wish to reduce it to slavery. Unfortunately a split seems necessary it not essential because it is vital to remove all doubt.

The path to be followed is clear. The example has frequently been given by Morocco in defending African independence and defending countries at grips with subversion or aggression. The things which are now happening prove once again that, in defending its territorial integrity and its sovereignty, our country is in fact defending Africa's independence and sovereignty. This exemplary policy, in face of Al-Qadhdhafi's attempts at destabilization, shows the Africans the path to follow, the path laid down by Hassan II, the African.

SUDAN

NEWSPAPER REPORTS LIBYA FINANCES ARMS FOR IRAN

JN151825 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 15 Jan (SUNA)--In its issue which will be published tomorrow, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine reports that Libya recently financed deals of arms and military hardware for Iran. The magazine adds that this materiel was shipped from various European ports.

BEGIN TO SUGGEST ELECTION FOR JUNE OR JULY

TA161202 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Report by correspondent Arye Golan from the prime minister's office--live]

[Text] Today it was a meeting between the Likud faction and the prime minister. The issue at hand was early elections. At the meeting the prime minister said that he would prefer this government to remain in office until November but given the existing situation, because of those coalition components desiring early elections, he would suggest at the Sunday Cabinet meeting that the elections be held in June or July. In other words, the prime minister favors holding early elections. He also said that the election campaign would begin a short time afterward. The Likud will have to emphasize the peace treaty, this change that came about during the current government's tenure.

In its Sunday session the Cabinet will set a date for the election to the 10th Knesset. We have been told that this will be done without prior consultation with the opposition, the Alignment faction. As will be recalled, the Alignment is to raise its own motion for the dissolution of the Knesset and holding early elections.

BEGIN, LIBERALS DISCUSS FINANCE PORTFOLIO

TA151226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] The prime minister conferred today with the four liberal ministers and heard from them that their candidate for finance minister is Yisra'el Sakharov. After the meeting, the energy minister told our correspondent that the liberals object to Aridor's appointment. However, our correspondent expects the government to approve the appointment of Yoram Aridor as finance minister on Sunday despite this meeting.

ISRAEL RAISES NO NEW IDEAS IN AUTONOMY TALKS

TA151348 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] At the second meeting of the autonomy negotiations, which were resumed in Tel Aviv last night, the Egyptian team put forward proposals relating to ideas presented by the Israeli delegation about the direction of the negotiations. Israeli delegation head Hayim Kubersky told our correspondent, Aharon Barne'a, that Israel had not raised any new ideas about the basic matters under discussion.

Our correspondent said there were difficulties in the talks because the U.S. delegation could not approve any decisions because of next week's change in the U.S. administration. Any agreement would have to receive the new administration's approval. The teams of experts left at noon for a recess and the formulating group will meet this afternoon.

CONSUMER INDEX RISES 6 PERCENT IN DECEMBER

TA151516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] The consumer price index rose last month by 6 percent and stood at 1,215 points. Last month saw price rises in all consumer goods categories, especially in food and equipment for the home. Last year the consumer price index rose by 132.9 percent compared with 111 percent in the preceding year.

SHIM'ON PERES INTERVIEWED ON 'JORDANIAN OPTION'

TA160854 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Jan 81 p 14

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ginosar at the Knesset cafeteria on 14 January]

[Excerpt] Question: Is the Jordanian option still valid despite King Husayn's obvious reservations about it and President as-Sadat's coolness toward it?

Answer: A Jordanian option exists despite all the talk. The moment foundations for negotiations with Jordan exist one could expect a change of attitude on the part of Husayn. As for As-Sadat, he says that one must first end the autonomy negotiations. The argument is on the timing.

Question: Could such a situation arise whereby a government headed by yourself would be forced to continue negotiating the autonomy plan, a plan alien to the Labor Party?

Answer: A Labor government would honor any commitment undertaken by the previous government.

Question: How does this fit in with the territorial compromise notion?

Answer: The Labor Party maintains that the autonomy plan involves dangers, but we regard autonomy as an interim solution for a transition period and will guarantee security zones that would make possible the implementation of the territorial compromise idea in the future. It all depends on the army's deployment and the settlements.

Question: Redeployment in security regions?

Answer: In general, we would not be able to give up deployment along the Jordan Rift Valley, Gush 'Ezyon and the Jerusalem area.

Question: What do you mean when you talk about foundations for negotiations with Jordan?

Answer: Our relations with Jordan are linked to two borders. The strategic-economic value of the southern border has grown in the last 2 years. The port of Al-'Aqabah has assumed unbelievable importance, partly as a result of current Iraqi-Jordanian relations and also due to the paving of the road leading from the port to Amman and Baghdad. In addition to the port, an airport has recently been built and they are currently establishing a potassium plant on the Dead Sea coast. Symmetry has thus been created: a port opposite a port, a road opposite a road, an airport opposite an airport, a potassium plant versus a potassium plant. Could Jordan ignore problems like free passage through the seas, freedom of flying or even the Dead Sea water level. A strategic change has recently occurred: the entire stretch of land between Shatt al-'Arab and the Jordan River relies on a limited Jordanian force. Not only have Jordan and Iraq grown closer, but Syria and Jordan have experienced a growing rift and this places a burden on Jordan's northern "shoulder." Jordan enjoys internal stability at the moment as well as an economic boom and the lukewarm support of the Arab world. However, this cozy feeling is merely illusory. The situation will change, at which point Jordan will find itself faced with a few questions.

Question: Given the reality of 1981, can you talk about any political plan without mentioning the PLO even in passing?

Answer: Regarding the PLO, there is no room for mention in passing. Either you go along with it or you go against it. If you go with it, you eliminate all the existing options. We are prepared to go with those Palestinians who are not members of the PLO without making this provisional on Jordanian consent; similarly, we are prepared to go with Jordan with the participation of Palestinians. When you say PLO, you must erase these two possibilities. To this very moment I know nothing about any Arab country that actually supports the establishment of a separate Palestinian state. There are, of course some Arab countries that talk about a Palestinian state and mean the elimination of Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian state instead.

FRANCE SAID TRYING TO BLOCK ISRAELI ARMS SALES

TA160749 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 81 pp 1, 2

[By military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] France's ambassadors in various countries are conducting a pressure campaign against the purchase of Israeli arms, particularly the Kfir, through the dissemination of fabrications. Among other points, the French explain to governments interested in deals with Israel that they will be open to pressures by the Arab states and OPEC. Reports on this matter have reached Israel, where they have aroused anger.

The latest incident in this campaign took place prior to the visit to Israel by the Mexican defense minister, which concluded yesterday. When the French Embassy in Mexico City learned about the expected visit to Israel, which was aimed at examining the possibility of purchasing Kfir aircraft, a defamation campaign began. Mexican personalities were told, among other things, that a court case initiated against Israel by France's Dassault firm, manufacturer of the Mirage plane, was pending; this case was said to concern the French company's claim for royalties from the sale of the Kfir. The French explained that this case was liable to cause the annulment of Kfir sales agreements. Israeli sources explained that it is not true that any legal claim against Israel has been filed by thd Dassault firm or by any other French body, nor is another French claim--that no two-seater Kfir model exists--correct. After these facts had been set straight, the French asked the Mexican defense minister to visit France en route home from his visit to Israel in order to examine planes there. In addition, the Mexicans intend also to examine the F-5 aircraft, manufactured by the Northrop Corporation.

A similar case of intervention by a French ambassador against a deal with Israel occurred in Colombia. There Israel won a tender for the overhaul of fighter planes. French Embassy personnel there explained that no agreement with Israel should be signed because this would be politically damaging for Colombia. The local press published reports that Israeli figures had bribed Colombian officials and that in fact its tender bid had been higher than France's.

The French ambassador was summoned to the Colombian Foreign Ministry for a discussion of this matter, and a Colombian Government minister appeared in a television interview where he presented both tender bids. It turned out that the Israeli bid had been some $7 million lower than that of the French.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO SAYS FRENCH TROOPS WILL NOT LEAVE FOR CHAD

AB160928 Paris AFP in French 0834 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Bangui, 16 Jan (AFP)--In accordance with the Lagos accord, there is no question of authorizing French troops to leave CAR territory to intervene in Chad. This was stated yesterday by CAR head of state David Dacko on his return from Lome where he took part in a conference on Chad.

Speaking during a radio and television broadcast, Mr Dacko recalled that the French troops have been sent to the CAR at the request of the CAR Government in order to ensure the security and integrity of its territory. We were worried by Libya's ambitions because of the formation of the Islamic Legion--in charge of occupying Chad and the CAR and subsequently other African countries--and called for French assistance in conformity with the 1960 military accords, explained President Dacko.

The CAR head of state also called on his compatriots to remain vigilant because, according to him, deserters from the CAR army have secretly gone to Libya where they are receiving military training. President Dacko added that their leader is Dr Iddi Lala, who has been asked by Libya to destabilize the CAR and thus prepare the ground for a Libyan invasion.

After expressing satisfaction about the deliberations of the Lome conference and the reception accorded him during his 4-day stay in Togo, Mr Dacko said that many of the African heads of state present in the Togolese capital condemned his country for choosing the multiparty system. I think this is an experiment we must try, commented the CAR head of state.

Concerning the role of the parties, Mr Dacko said: Their mission is to unite their efforts, ideas and programs so as to reach a consensus which would help the government to rebuild the country, which is completely in ruins. I do not think that we will take advantage of our positions as leaders of political parties or factions to engage in agitations and destabilize our country.

DACKO INTERVIEWED ON NEW CONSTITUTION, ELECTION

AB161014 Paris AFP in French 0853 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Bangui, 16 Jan (AFP)--Speaking during an interview with the weekly magazine REALITES CENTRAFRICAINES, CAR president David Dacko said that the new CAR constitution, which will be submitted to a referendum on 1 February, restores democracy and introduces the multiparty system. President Dacko confirmed his intention to contest the presidential election which will take place at the end of February instead of at the beginning of March. The draft constitution, which was submitted to the nation's active elements during a seminar held from 8 to 15 December 1980, stipulates that the president of the republic, who is also head of the state and the army, determines the nation's policies. He is elected for a 6-year term and can be reelected only once. He appoints the prime minister who is the head of the government as well as the ministers. The prime minister is responsible to the head of state--who can dismiss him at any time--and to the deputies who can pass a vote of confidence in him or censure him.

Article 14 of the constitution emphasizes that political parties will be formed and will carry out their activities freely but that they must respect the principle of democracy and national unity.

According to the constitution, the National Assembly will be set up within 3 months at the latest. The deputies will be elected for a 5-year term. The constitution also provides for a constitutional council and an economic and social council. It mentions human rights and emphasizes that the individual is sacred.

President Dacko stated that the third CAR constitution, which replaces the imperial constitution of 4 December 1976 issued by Bokassa, wants to restore power to the people who, for 15 years, were unable to exercise it.

GABON

BONGO EXPRESSES ANXIETY OVER CHAD EVENTS

LD160913 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Jan 81 p 3

[Philippe Decraene undated interview with President Omar Bongo: "The Libyan Threat Already Hangs Over the CAR and We Must Therefore Be Extremely Vigilant"]

[Text] Libreville--Realizing that, as a result of the stationing of Libyan forces in Ndjamena, their capital is now within the reach of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's air force, Gabon leaders have been following the development of the situation with special vigilance since they have found in the Libyan Embassy's archives, after its diplomats were expelled, documents which made them apprehensive of some subversive plans.

President Bongo expressed this anxiety during an interview which he gave us.

[Question] Is the arrival of French reinforcements in Gabon desired and planned?

[Answer] No, there has been no mention of this for the time being. The dispatch of French reinforcements to the CAR has made it clear that our recent statements on Central Africa--a real appeal for help--have been listened to. It is a question of a need imposed by logistics since the CAR has a long border with Chad....

[Question] Does this mean that you have not asked that French troops be sent?

[Answer] I have made no formal request with this end in view because so far Gabon has been subjected to no direct external threat. Even though on a small scale, the present French military presence in our country is sufficient. Obviously, if we were to feel threatened we could immediately reconsider our position....

[Question] Do you stick to your recent statements that France was wrong to withdraw its troops from Chad in May 1980?

[Answer] Certainly, I stick to them completely but this does not mean that France should send troops here. In any case, what shows that my statements on Chad were well founded is that French reinforcements are now on CAR territory and not in Chad where they could be if Paris had adopted a different policy....

[Question] Do you believe that the Libyan threat has already gone well beyond the limits of Chad territory?

[Answer] The Libyan threat already hangs over the CAR from where the infiltration of Tripoli agents has long been reported to us and where some political leaders rely on Al-Qadhdhafi's support to impose their views on their fellow countrymen. What occurred last month in Kano, where 1,000 people were killed, was engineered by Libya. The attempted putsch in Gambia and the abortive plot which was recently uncovered in Mauritania can also be traced back to Libya. In Upper Volta some officers favorable to ideologies promoted by Libya would have seized power if Col Zaye Zerbo had not taken action to assume it.

[Question] And yet you rule out a direct Libyan threat to Gabon?

[Answer] Gabon is threatened inasmuch as it does not share the views of certain African countries friendly to Libya which support Libya's expansionist policy. For the time being we just remain extremely vigilant. We have asked for arms, especially heavy arms which we still lack, but this gap will soon be filled.

[Question] In your view, has the situation in Chad been relatively stabilized since the victory achieved by Goukouni Oueddei with the Libyan Army's help?

[Answer] Absolutely not. First, because nothing has so far been clarified with respect to plans for a merger between Libya and Chad. We are still awaiting explanations as to whether what is being planned is a federation, a confederation or a single state and even whether the name of Chad is still to be used. Everything depends on the attitude of Chad leaders themselves, who would like to either confirm or invalidate the accords concluded in Tripoli as soon as possible. I am not prepared to talk about stability as long as we do not receive precise information on this point. Be that as it may, in our view Goukouni Oueddei presides merely over a provisional government whose decisions can in no way commit the Chad people in the long term.

BENIN

KEREKOU MAKES STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM LOME

AB161100 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 0725 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Statement to the press by President Mathieu Kerekou on his return to Cotonou from the Lome conference on Chad on 15 January--recorded]

[Excerpts] We must first of all make some clarifications considering the context in which the meeting was summoned. In fact, on our departure from Cotonou on Tuesday, 13 January 1981, we said that we did not know why the current OAU chairman, Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens, had summoned this meeting. On that occasion, we wanted to know for whom the OAU was working. This question is still valid.

The delegation of our revolutionary party and state went to the Togolese capital to participate in an extraordinary meeting of the heads of state of the member countries of the 17th OAU Bureau and of the permanent OAU committee in charge of following the development of the Chadian situation. On our departure, we also wondered why the OAU seemed to be fidgeting around Chad whereas peace has been restored not only in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena but also throughout the national territory. We must admit that at that time we did not have the necessary information to appreciate the real situation. We lacked the necessary information to make us realize that such a meeting should be held urgently.

What was the purpose of the meeting? It was to inform the participating heads of state about the development of the new situation resulting from the fact that the president of the Transitional National Union Government, His Excellency Goukouni Oueddei, paid an official visit to Libya during which he was said to have signed an agreement merging these two states. That was the new situation created. The OAU, which rightly considers the GUNT its beloved son--because the GUNT is in fact nothing more than an emanation of the Lagos accord--also believes that Goukouni Oueddei has gone beyond his rights as president of the Transitional National Union Government. It was therefore necessary that we should meet to analyze the gravity of this decision.

We have noted a revival of the offensive of the reactionary press which informed international opinion about this proposal. We insist that it is only a proposal. The Libyan foreign minister has confirmed that it is only a proposal and an intention and that Libya has no intention to merge with Chad without the consent of the two peoples.

MALI

COUP ATTEMPT REPORTED BY SOURCES IN DAKAR

AB151515 Paris AFP in French 1426 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Dakar, 15 Jan (AFP)--An attempted coup d'etat organized by about 15 young noncommissioned gendarmerie officers against Malian President General Moussa Traore was foiled just in time on 31 December, according to concurring reports given today by travelers coming from Bamako as well as by reliable sources in Dakar.

According to the same sources, these gendarmes intended to overthrow the regime and kill all the country's military leaders, including Gen Moussa Traore. According to the reports, the attempted coup d'etat was foiled just in time, only a few hours before its execution.

All the gendarmes were arrested after the failure of their attempt, with the exception of one of them who has disappeared. They have been accused of plotting. According to the same sources, about 60 other gendarmes and some civilian intellectual cadres have been interrogated.

NIGERIA

GOUKOUNI, KAMOUGOUE ARRIVE FOR TALKS WITH SHAGARI

AB152124 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] The president of the transitional government in Chad, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, and the vice president, Lieutenant Colonel Kamougoue, arrived in Lagos today for talks with President Shehu Shagari. The Chadian leaders are in Nigeria at the invitation of the president. President Goukouni and Vice President Kamougoue will return to Ndjamena tomorrow.

SENEGAL

DIOUF NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF SOCIALIST PARTY

AB151915 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Dakar, 15 Jan (AFP)--President Abdou Diouf has been named new secretary general of the ruling Socialist Party, a post previously held by retired President Sedar Senghor, the party Central Committee said here today.

Mr Diouf, who took over from Mr Senghor as president on New Years Day, was previously prime minister and deputy secretary general of the party. Mr Senghor was made honorary president of the ruling party, a Central Committee statement said.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF LOME TALKS

AB152105 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Excerpt] President Siaka Stevens, the current chairman of the OAU, told newsmen this afternoon that the OAU standpoint on the Chadian issue is to give the people a chance to elect their own government. At an airport press briefing soon after his arrival from Lome, where he chaired a closed session of the OAU Standing Committee on Chad, President Stevens condemned the merger between Chad and Libya and reaffirmed the validity of the 1979 Lagos accord. He pledged the OAU's commitment to vigorously implement all its decisions on Chad and said that the interim transitional government of Chad was selected by the OAU and had no right to commit the nation and people of Chad on such a fundamental and far-reaching agreement.

The OAU chairman, who said that Libya is now in a very tight corner as a result of pressures from other OAU member states, described the Lome talks as having [words indistinct] of killing two birds with one stone. He spoke about the mandate given to the OAU secretary general to organize general elections in Chad in April this year and said the interim leader of Chad, Goukouni Oueddei, went outside the 1979 Lagos mandate by making other arrangements with Libya.

President Stevens arrived together with Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who later left for his country. At the airport to welcome him were the acting first vice president, Mr C.A. Kamara-Taylor, cabinet ministers, the Guinean ambassador to Sierra Leone, senior government officials and Guinean residents in Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, the OAU Standing Committee on Chad has called on Libya and the Transitional National Union Government of Chad to set aside the reported agreement for a merger between the two countries. In a nine-point communique issued after a prolonged meeting of the 14-member committee in Lome, which was chaired by President Siaka Stevens, the committee called on Libya and other powers to immediately withdraw all troops presently stationed on Chadian territory. The committee also decided to send without further delay, with the assistance of the United Nations, a monitoring commission and an African peace-keeping force composed of troops from Benin, Congo, Guinea and Togo to be stationed throughout Chadian territory. The committee mandated the OAU secretary general to organize free and fair elections under the auspices of the OAU by the end of April 1981 and warned that any elections not conducted under the auspices of the OAU are invalid.

Last evening President Stevens, as the chairman of the OAU, undertook extensive pre-conference discussions with eight African leaders, including President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria, President Hilla Limann of Ghana and President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin, who had arrived earlier in the day. Returning from the gala dinner (?a few) minutes before midnight, President Stevens received in audience the new Senegalese head of state, Abdou Diouf and with him discussed bilateral and inter-African issues, including the Chadian conflict. The Senegalese leader told our correspondent in an interview after the meeting that both the political and cultural relations between Senegal and Sierra Leone are amicable and in the process of being intensified further.

TOGO

HEADS OF STATE LEAVE LOME; SHAGARI COMMENTS

AB151430 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Excerpts] The heads of state who took part in the 13 January festivities and then in the discussions on the Chadian problem left Lome this morning. They were preceded yesterday evening by Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny, who also took part in the talks. The remaining heads of state were seen off at the Lome-Tokoin Airport by Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, who was accompanied by members of the Central Committee, the various party organizations and the diplomatic corps.

Before leaving the Togolese capital this morning, Nigerian President Shehu Shagari commented briefly on the national liberation festivities as well as on the discussions of the Chadian problem:

[Begin recording in English with simultaneous translation] I came here on an official visit at the invitation of my brother, General Eyadema. This visit has been arranged for a long time. I had been invited to participate in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of Togo's National Liberation Day. I can tell you that I am very happy about what I have seen and very much impressed by the Togolese people's support for their leader. I am also very happy about the very warm reception accorded me. Concerning the OAU meeting, I can say that it was incidental because the main reason of my visit is to participate in the celebration of the national liberation day. To be sure, we took the opportunity to have some discussion on Chad. Chad and Nigeria are neighboring countries and what happens in one can affect the other. [passage indistinct] I should also say that I am very happy that we reached an agreement during our discussions. I am also sure that if we continue in this way, we will finally find a solution to the Chadian crisis. [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

DECREE NOMINATES GOVERNMENT SECRETARY GENERAL

AB151022 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Decree No 80 036 Pres CMRPN]

[Text] The president of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress and head of state decrees:

Article 1: Quartermaster 3d Class (Gadar) Leopold, formerly a general quartermaster at the quartermaster general's department headquarters, is nominated secretary general of the government and the Council of Ministers.

Article 2: This decree effective the date of the resumption of office by the interested person shall be recorded and published in the official gazette of the republic and shall be communicated everywhere when needed.

Ouagadougou 30 December, 1980

[Signed] Col Saye Zerbo.

ANGOLA

NATION TO HOST SOUTH AFRICA INQUIRY SESSION

LD161246 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0530 GMT 16 Jan 81 EA

[Text] The second session of the international commission of inquiry into crimes by the racist Pretoria regime against the peoples of southern African countries will be held in the People's Republic of Angola from 30 January to 4 February 1981.

This was announced to the information media by the president of the Angolan League of Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples, Comrade Coelho da Cruz, during a press conference he gave in Luanda yesterday. The international commission of inquiry into crimes of the South African racists against the peoples of southern African countries comprises jurists from all continents, demanding respect for human rights.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER BOTHA WELCOMES HAIG'S REMARKS

LD161348 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpt] The South African prime minister, Mr P. Botha, has welcomed the realistic attitude of the American secretary of state-designate, General Alexander Haig, on Southern African questions. Interviewed by the progovernment newspaper BEELD, Mr Botha said statements by General Haig in evidence before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were highly interesting and matters on which further discussions could be held. Mr Botha said it was interesting that a person as important as General Haig wanted to visit southern African and the government would look forward to such a visit.

FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS ISSUES 15 JAN

LD151624 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] The ministers of foreign affairs of Bophuthatswana, Venda, Transkei and South Africa have come out in support of the democratic parties of South-West Africa. They have also reaffirmed their adherence to the concept of a constellation of states as a means for promoting stability and progress in Southern Africa. The four ministers met in Mabatho, capital of Bophuthatswana, today to discuss matters of common interests. The ministers said they supported the devotion of democratic parties in South-West Africa toward promoting a peaceful settlement in the territory.

The South African minister of foreign affairs said the South African Government was now prepared to enter into negotiations with the government of Bophuthatswana, Venda and Transkei and other interested parties on the establishment of a multiracial development bank as the main channel for development assistance and cooperation in southern Africa. He said that throughout the noncommunist world there was a strong movement toward constraining the influence of politics in economic growth. The South African minister said that if the proposed multilateral bank, established and controlled by all governments in southern Africa, could demonstrate that it could promote economic development without getting involved in politics, it would become one of the major achievements of the present era.